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## Leicester City v Cherries

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## Rain hits matches



Non-league games called off - see page 5

# SAINTS IN RED ALERT

## Vic sent off as poor run goes on

**SOUTHAMPTON'S miserable run of form continued as Victor Wanyama's second half sending off led to 1-0 defeat at Norwich.**

Mane was left out of the side for being late to a pre-match team meeting for the second time in his Saints career and watched his side fail to take several good first half chances at Carrow Road and they ultimately paid the price again.

Wanyama was dismissed for a second yellow card after a rash challenge in the second half and just three minutes later Alexander Tettey scored the only goal of the game.

REPORT - pages 2&3



**Furious Koeman hits out at Mane over 'ill-discipline' - see page 3**

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# NORWICH CITY 1 SAINTS 0



Alexander Tettey scored the only goal of the game

## Vic sees red as Saints' miserable run goes on



Southampton's Victor Wanyama is shown a red card

**SOUTHAMPTON'S** miserable run of form continued as Victor Wanyama's second half sending off led to 1-0 defeat at Norwich on a day when Sadio Mane was dropped for disciplinary reasons.

Mane was left out of the side for being late to a pre-match team meeting for the second time in his Saints career and watched his side fail to take several good first half chances at Carrow Road and they ultimately paid the price again.

Wanyama was dismissed for a second yellow card after a rash challenge in the second half and just three minutes later Alexander Tettey scored the only goal of the game.

The defeat means it is just four points from a possible 24 for Saints.

Saints started the game with real intensity, pressing Norwich very high up the pitch.

The Canaries seemed content to sit fairly deep to prevent Saints having space in behind for Shane Long to attack, but were therefore allowing their opponents plenty of possession.

Long was the first to threaten as he rose above goalkeeper Declan Rudd in the six yard box but could only head over a cross from

### TEAM NEWS

Ronald Koeman pulled a major surprise by dropping Sadio Mane for the game at Norwich for disciplinary reasons.

The Senegalese attacker was due to start the match, but Koeman reported that he turned up late for the team meeting and so was replaced by James Ward-Prowse in one of two changes to the side that were beaten 2-1 by West Ham.

The other was enforced with Oriol Romeu serving a one game ban after picking up his fifth booking of the season. Jordy Clasie came into the team. Young striker Ryan Seager was

amongst the subs.

**SAINTS:** Stekelenburg, Martina, Fonte, van Dijk, Bertrand, Wanyama, Clasie, Ward-Prowse, S Davis, Tadic, Long.

**Subs:** Gazzaniga, Yoshida, Targett, Reed, Mane, Ramirez, Seager.

**NORWICH:** Rudd, Martin, Bennett, Bassong, Brady; Redmond, O'Neill, Tettey, Hoofahlan; Howson; Mbokani.

**Subs:** Ruddy, Whittaker, Jerome, Dorrans, Mulumbu, Olsson, Odjidja.

Dusan Tadic.

Victor Wanyama was the next to have a shot but fired well over the bar from just outside the area.

Norwich had their first sight of goal on 11 minutes as Jose Fonte failed to clear and Jonny Howson broke into the area. The ball was bouncing awkwardly under pressure so he had to take it fairly early and could only steer it wide.

The game was getting end to end and James Ward-Prowse had an opening as Ryan Bertrand found him with a cut back after an overlapping run down the left.

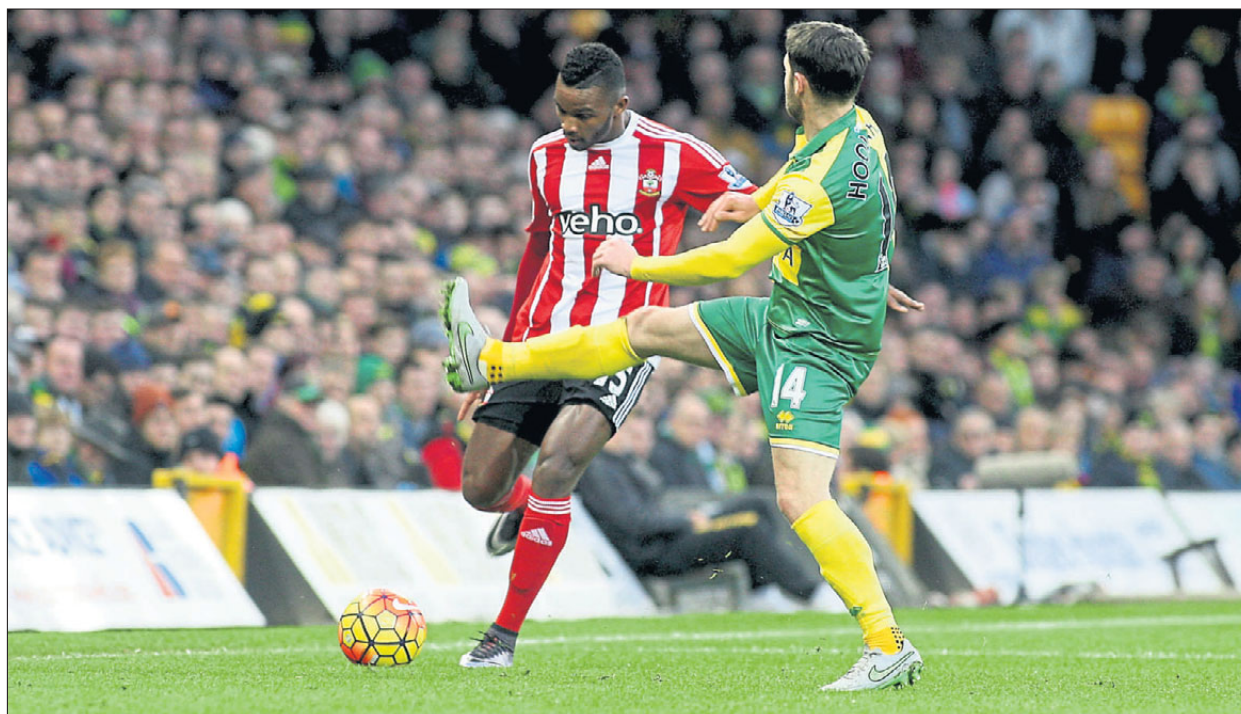
Ward-Prowse took one touch to control and a second to get away a shot from just inside the box but it was straight at Rudd.

Saints were seeing so much possession but generally only in areas that Norwich were allowing. When they slipped up the Canaries tried to move quickly and Howson's ball across the six yard box couldn't quite find anyone to turn it home.

Saints' biggest threat was Bertrand down the left and he had the chance to shoot himself on 29 minutes as a high diagonal cross field ball from the right found him in the area, but it was a really hard ask first time as it dropped and he could only fire across goal and wide.

There was a miss for Norwich moments later as Russell Martin's pass into the area took a slight deflection off of Bertrand and was reached first by the leg of





Dieumerici Mbokani six yards out but his touch at the near post couldn't steer it home.

Saints finally got Long in behind on 32 minutes thanks to Cuco Martina's curling ball round the back which created a terrific opening. The striker was one-on-one with Rudd but he could only finish into the body of the advancing keeper and it went wide.

From Bertrand's inswinging corner Long headed into the ground and this time Rudd tipped over.

Wanyama became the first player in the book for a late challenge on Nathan Redmond.

Another decent chance went begging for Saints on 37 minutes as Ward-Prowse's corner found the head of Virgil van Dijk eight yards out but he put over.

Jordy Clasie extended Rudd just before half time with an effort from 25 yards that was bending away from the Norwich stopper towards the bottom corner before he got down to his left to save.

Mbokani had one last opportunity for the Canaries before the half time whistle but on the stretch could only volley over from a right wing cross.

The second period picked up with a similar theme as Saints bossed possession as Norwich sat deep and made themselves very hard to break down. The problem for Saints was creating chances.

For their part Norwich were posing very little threat, Alexander Tettey's shot slashed well over the bar the best they could conjure early on.

They tried to change that with a first change on 63 minutes with Vadis Odjidja-Ofoe coming on for Redmond.

Tadic had the first presentable second half chance for Saints five minutes later but from a tight angle he could only a lift a shot over the bar.

With Saints having looked like the only team who would win the game for so long they were sud-



Norwich City's Jonny Howson (left) and Southampton's Ryan Bertrand during the match at Carrow Road

denly dealt a huge blow on 73 minutes as they were reduced to ten men.

Wanyama flew into a sliding challenge on Odjidja-Ofoe but took the man rather than the ball and Mark Clattenburg had no hesitation in producing the midfielder's second yellow card of the game, followed by a red.

Just three minutes later Norwich went ahead.

The Canaries got the ball to

Odjidja-Ofoe on the right, he breezed past Clasie and into the area and cut back to Tettey who finished first time left footed from 12 yards out into the opposite top corner for 1-0.

Saints made a double change with ten minutes remaining with Harrison Reed and Sadio Mane replacing Clasie and Tadic.

Norwich responded with Cameron Jerome and Martin Olsson coming on for Mbokani and Wes

Hoolahan.

Koeman had one last roll of the dice with Gaston Ramirez replacing Ward-Prowse with three minutes left.

However, it was too late to have any impact as Saints failed to create anything in the final stages and were condemned to another defeat and grateful that at least results elsewhere meant they were drawn no nearer to the drop zone.

## Koeman's fury at Mane after latest loss

**FURIOUS** Ronald Koeman slammed Sadio Mane after the defeat to Norwich, calling his ill-discipline "very painful."

Koeman revealed that he had warned Mane about his poor attitude in training on Thursday, and was stunned that the player then turned up late for the final team meeting at the club's hotel in Norwich, two hours before kick-off at Carrow Road.

It was the second occasion Mane had committed that misdemeanour in his time at Saints, and he was duly dropped from the starting line-up, meaning a late reshuffle in a game Saints went on to lose 1-0.

A fuming Koeman was asked whether he had been let down by some players and responded: "By some players yes. Of course."

"We had a different line-up for the game. Sadio was in, one of the 11 players to start, but we have rules in the team."

"He was doing a big mistake before the game in our last meeting, two hours before, that he came late, and that's impossible."

"Everybody know then you have a sanction. You don't start."

"Then you have to make changes in the team, you have to make changes in all the set-pieces and everything."

"I don't understand. I don't understand a player who is coming late to the last meeting."

"My message to Sadio two days ago was that I think he wasn't really focussed and concentrated and that happened two days ago in the training sessions."

Koeman, who also criticised Victor Wanyama's needless red card which came just three minutes before Norwich scored the winner, added: "Yes (let down by Mane), not the manager but much more the players, his teammates, because we are a club, Southampton is a club, we like to treat everyone very respectful."

"You have responsibilities as a player to the fans, to your teammates, to the board, to the technical staff. That's very painful."

"Losing a game is part of a job, critics what we will get, and it's normal if you don't win and you are now on the position on the table that everybody knows, that is normal, part of our job. But some we do it by ourselves."

Koeman admitted Mane's attitude could be because of the opening of the transfer window but insisted only the player himself could answer that.



Ronald Koeman at Norwich

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## LEICESTER CITY 0 CHERRIES 0

# Ten-man Cherries hold firm to keep Foxes off table top

LEICESTER lost ground at the top of the Barclays Premier League as they began the new year with a goalless draw against 10-man Bournemouth at the King Power Stadium, with Riyad Mahrez missing from the penalty spot.

Claudio Ranieri's side ended 2015 level on points with leaders Arsenal, despite finishing the year with a defeat at Liverpool and another home stalemate against Manchester City.

They dropped more points on Saturday despite playing for more than half an hour against 10 men following Simon Francis' red card. That incident led to Leicester winning a penalty but Mahrez saw his spot-kick saved by Artur Boruc.

Ranieri said this week he felt the Bournemouth game would be tougher than City's visit, and he was not far wrong. The Foxes huffed and puffed and Jamie Vardy failed to find the back of the net for a fourth successive match as Leicester fell two points adrift of Arsenal at the Premier League summit.

Mahrez had much of the King Power Stadium on its feet in the 10th minute when his spectacular overhead volley flew just over the crossbar. Shortly afterwards Boruc was quickly out of his goal to gather at Leonardo Ulloa's feet and deny the Leicester striker.

Bournemouth, now beaten just once in their last seven matches, saw a big chance go begging after quarter of an hour when Josh King glanced his header wide after Junior Stanislas had picked him out inside the six-yard box.

It was Leicester's turn to miss a sitter as the half-hour mark approached. Leading scorer Vardy controlled a mis-hit shot from Ulloa around the penalty spot but with only Boruc to beat he poked his shot against the inside of a post and the ball rebounded away.

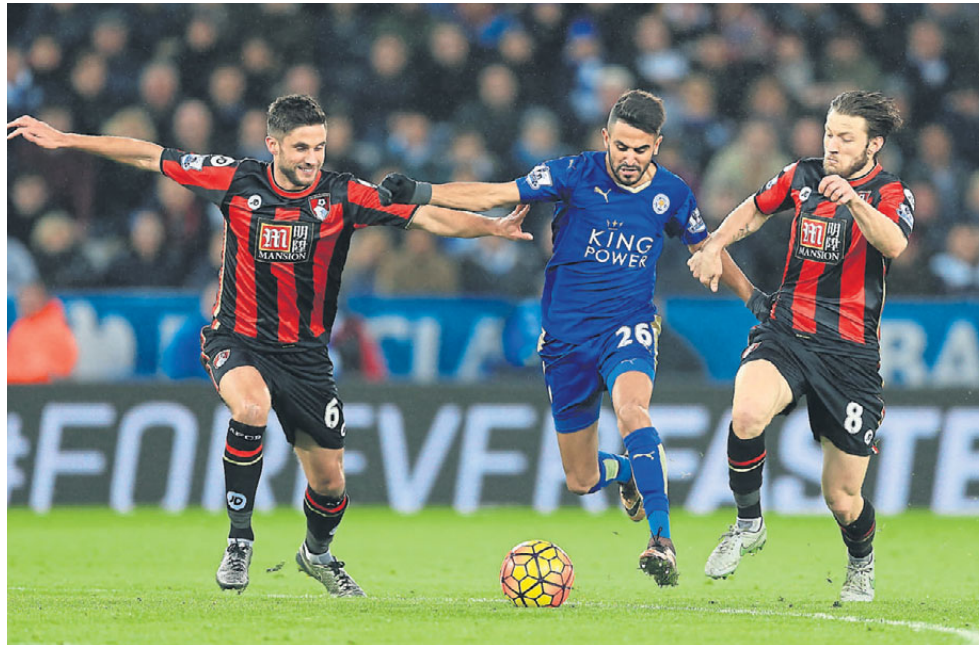
Stanislas and Dan Gosling were then guilty of scooping shots over the crossbar from good positions inside the penalty area.

Back at the other end, Mahrez put in Vardy down the left-hand side of the box but the 15-goal striker missed the far post with his low effort from a tight angle.

Further scoring opportunities came and went for Leicester at the beginning of the second half as a fingertip save from Boruc denied Vardy before captain Wes Morgan volleyed the ball over the crossbar from inside the six-yard box following a corner.

For the first time in the match the momentum was firmly with one team and the pendulum swung further in Leicester's favour in the 57th minute with the dismissal of Francis.

The Bournemouth captain and Vardy chased after Danny Drinkwater's through ball, and with Vardy winning the race, Francis made a sliding challenge, bringing down the Foxes man. Television replays suggested Francis got a touch on the ball, and he protested as much, but referee Andre Marriner brought out his red



Leicester City's Riyad Mahrez (centre) battles for the ball against AFC Bournemouth's Andrew Surman (left) and Harry Arter (right)



AFC Bournemouth's Simon Francis (left) is shown a red card by referee Andre Marriner

card and awarded the penalty.

Bournemouth will feel some justice was served as Boruc, diving to his left, got two strong hands to Mahrez's spot-kick.

Eddie Howe's team responded well to their numerical disadvantage.

The introduction of experienced defender Sylvain Distin, for midfielder Harry Artur, helped as Bournemouth by and large kept Leicester at arm's length for the remainder of the game.

Leicester did have some chances, though. Substitute Shinji Okazaki

sent a volley narrowly wide before Vardy glanced a header past a post in between two efforts by N'Golo Kante from outside the box.

Ranieri's team were to be frustrated though and are now without a win in three games.

## Results

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH**  
Basingstoke Town pp Sutton United  
Concord Rangers 0 Ebbsfleet 0  
Dartford 1 Chelmsford City 1  
Havant & Waterlooville pp Gosport Borough  
Maidenhead United pp Oxford City  
Maidstone United 2 Margate 1  
St Albans City 1 Bishop's Cleeve 1  
Truro City pp Bath City  
Wealdstone pp Hemel Hempstead Town  
Weston-super-Mare pp Hayes & Yeading  
Whitehawk pp Eastbourne Borough

**EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier**  
Bedworth United 1 Kettering 1  
Chesham pp Dunstable  
Cirencester 1 Chippenham 4  
Dorchester pp Bideford  
Histon 1 Biggleswade 2  
Hitchin pp Cambridge City  
Hungerford pp Slough  
Leamington pp Stratford  
Paulton Rovers pp Frome  
Poole Town pp Weymouth  
Redditch 3 Merthyr Town 1  
St Neots 0 Kings Lynn 1  
Division One South & West  
Banbury 8 Wantage 1  
Bridgwater pp Slimbridge  
Didcot pp Burnham  
Marlow pp North Leigh  
Shortwood pp Cinderford  
Swindon Supermarine pp Mangotsfield United  
Taunton pp Tiverton  
Wimborne pp AFC Totton  
Winchester City pp Bashley  
Yate Town 2 Larkhall Athletic 1

**SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division**  
Lymington Town 1  
Bournemouth Poppies 2  
All other games postponed.  
Division One  
All games postponed.

## Gunners go top

Arsenal laboured to victory over Newcastle to start 2016 with a win and move two points clear at the top of the Barclays Premier League.

The Gunners were largely outplayed by a visiting side desperate to start the new year with a surprise result to lift themselves out of the relegation zone.

Steve McClaren's men certainly created more chances but they were undone when Laurent Koscielny scored his third of the season from close range to secure a 1-0 win for the hosts.

Petr Cech, fresh from sealing the Premier League clean-sheet record, kept out a number of Newcastle chances - most notably Georginio Wijnaldum's early second-half shot.

And it was Arsene Wenger and his players left smiling at the full-time whistle as Koscielny's effort, coupled with Leicester's goalless draw at home to Bournemouth, saw them move clear at the summit.



# Eastleigh and Winchester among the games rained off



Eastleigh's Silverlake pitch failed an inspection earlier this morning

## Town hoping someone will take a Gamble...

**WIMBORNE Town are understood to be holding out for a fee for transfer-listed striker Mark Gamble.**

Southern One South & West rivals AFC Totton and Winchester City have shown interest in the Southampton-based marksman, while reigning Wessex champions Petersfield Town – now of the Southern One Central – are believed to have joined the race.

Gamble has been the Magpies' top scorer for the past two seasons and had scored 11 goals from 14 games prior to displacing two bones in his foot and suffering ankle ligament damage in October.

Wimborne, who are believed to be feeling the pinch financially, circulated his availability for transfer or loan last month.

For Totton, Gamble would be a prospective replacement for last season's top gun Craig Feeney, who is off travelling in Australia. The Stags, though, have a rich scoring vein, hitting 13 goals in their last three matches.

Winchester are the division's top scorers with 57 goals, but are wary of becoming overly reliant on frontline duo Warren Bentley and Zach Glasspool.

On the back of the flurry of interest in Gamble, Wimborne officials are keen to secure the



Wimborne Town's Mark Gamble

best possible deal with the prospect of a four-figure fee said to be in the offing.

That could well turn off Gamble's former club Winchester whose interest appears to be waning.

"Wimborne have not come back to us and, financially, it's probably too much money," said City boss Paul Masters.

AFC Totton boss Steve Hollick, who has already welcomed two ex-Magpies de-

fenders – Patrick Wilson and Ian Oliver – to the Testwood Stadium, said: "The ball's in Wimborne's court. We'll see what they decide to do."

Wimborne boss Simon Browne politely declined to comment, confirming only that negotiations had continued with regard to Gamble's future at the club.

Totton were due to visit the Magpies in league action today, but the game was postponed after heavy rain. It has been rearranged for Tuesday week (January 12, 7.45pm).

The same fate befell Winchester's home match against bottom-of-the-table Bashley. Weather-permitting, City are due back in action at home to Didcot Town this Wednesday (January 6, 7.45).

Eastleigh's Silverlake Stadium pitch failed a 9.15am inspection, forcing their Vanarama National League showdown with Bromley to be postponed.

It means Chris Todd's men face going into next Saturday's huge FA Cup third round tie against Bolton Wanderers having not played competitively since the 1-1 draw against Aldershot on December 28.

Sydenhams League pitches also took a hammering with Lymington Town's game against Bournemouth Poppies the only Premier Division fixture to survive.



## Strong winds wreck stand at Petersfield

PETERSFIELD Town got more than bargained for when they turned up to inspect their Love Lane pitch this morning.

It was no surprise for the promoted Sydenhams Premier champions that the surface was waterlogged, making their Southern One Central fixture against Godalming Town unplayable.

But what they hadn't bargained on was gale-force winds uprooting one of their stands.

"The whole stand has been ripped out of the ground," said manager Ian Saunders.

"All we have left is the terraced area and the part where the seats are."

"The rest of the structure has turned up on its roof and been blown 15 feet from where it's supposed to

be.

"To say we're disappointed is an understatement. I can't believe our bad luck."

Committee members and players have done their best to dismantle the ripped-out structure today but the club are appealing for help to put it back together again.

"I hope there might be a couple of people out there who can help us rebuild it," said Saunders.

While the 50-seater covered area is out of action, it will have repercussions on the club fulfilling its Southern League ground grading.

But Saunders said: "We're hoping they'll show us some seasonal goodwill and allow us to put the structure back together."



The collapsed stand at Petersfield Town

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# SECOND TEST: Mike Vimpany reports from Newlands

## Stokes leads the way as England finish the first day of Test on top...

**BEN Stokes led the way as England enjoyed a terrific closing passage of play to finish the first day of the second Sunfoil Test in Cape Town in the ascendancy at 317-5 after Joe Root's departure had brought South Africa firmly back into the match.**

Stokes arrived at the crease immediately after tea on a potential Kagiso Rabada hat-trick with England wobbling at 223-5.

But after taking 17 runs off the second new ball over by Chris Morris, Stokes took total command and added 4 unbeaten 94 with sixth-wicket partner Jonny Bairstow to put England in the box seat.

Newlands was at its majestic best throughout an absorbing day's cricket.

Nestled beneath Table Mountain, it was packed to the brim, with an estimated 12,000 England fans slapping on the factor 30 in the sizzling sunshine – their thirst replenished by welcoming pints of beer costing as little as £1 a throw!

Such is the favourable exchange rate, South Africa has never been a better place to visit for a holidaying Brit.

Predictably, the Barmy Army had almost drunk the place dry by stumps, as England recovered from an uncertain 223-5 to finish the first day with 317-5 on the board.

James Anderson, ruled out of the 241-run First Test victory at Durban by a calf strain, was passed fit to lead the England attack, while South Africa – whose only defeats at Cape Town since re-admittance in 1992 have been inflicted by Australia – made three changes.

Quinton de Kock took the wicket-keeping gloves to lift the weight from AB de Villiers, with JP Duminy dropped to accommodate him.

Debutant Titans all-rounder Chris Morris and 2014 Under-19 World Cup winner Kagiso Rabada constituted two-thirds of a new-look pace attack, shorn of Dale Steyn (shoulder injury) and former Hampshire man Kyle Ab-

**Mike Vimpany**



bott, who was suffering from a tweaked hamstring.

Alastair Cook won his first toss of the winter – he lost all three against Pakistan in the Emirates and called wrongly again in Durban – and England batted first on what was clearly a good cricket wicket.

Head groundsman at Newlands for some time now has been Evan Flint, who spent the 1998 summer playing locally for Fareham & Crofton, under the watchful eye of hugely respected Hampshire Cricket League pitch guru Tony Brown.

South Africa's solitary success before lunch was that of Cook, a big scalp for the 20-year old Rabada, who debuted in India late last year but was playing in his Test on home soil.

Cook progressed sedately to 27 and appeared set for a big score before Morris sprung low to his left to clutch a wonderful catch at third slip.

The wicket was to be the first of three victims for the impressive Johannesburg-raised youngster, who with a 3-74 return was to enjoy the best day of his embryo career in front of a 20,195 Newlands full-house.

Alex Hales, looked as strong off his legs as he was uncertain outside his off-stump, reached 38 not out by lunch as England dined at 76-1.

One-nil up in the Series, England looked to push on after the break, with 31 runs coming off four overs.

Hailes moved on to his maiden Test fifty and Nick Compton advanced down the wicket to smash the respected Dane Piedt for a straight six.

The pair added 53 after lunch before Hales (60) was superbly caught at second slip by a leaping AB de Villiers to leave England 129-2 in the 44th over. Hales hit ten fours.

Joe Root lived dangerously early in his innings, being missed by de Villiers off a difficult slip chance and soon afterwards spooning the ball off a lead edge.

By good fortune, the ball dropped agonisingly out of reach of a despairing dive by South Africa's captain at first slip.

At 164-2, England appeared to be headed towards a substantial total – but their progress was checked dramatically when Rabada, bowling with control, struck twice in successive deliveries to remove Compton and then James Taylor first ball after tea.

Compton, whose patient batting was one of the cornerstones of England's success in Durban, had moved to 45 when Temba



England's Alastair Cook plays a shot during the Second Test against South Africa in Cape Town



Nick Compton in action for England in the Second Test

Bavuma, raised locally in the Langa township, picked him up at wide mid-wicket.

Immediately after tea, Taylor pushed at Rabada's next delivery and nicked a chance to de Kock, who took the chance low down to leave England an uncertain 167-4 at the start of the third and final session.

England's innings had ebbed and flowed, batsmen making starts – only to perish.

Ben Stokes, whose cavalier approach style is always pleasing on the eye, got off the mark with an imperious boundary off his legs and then smacked Piedt over the perimeter boards for six into the sun-baked

England followers.

But, at 188-4, he survived an anxious moment when South Africa reviewed a leg-before call by Morne Morkel – television replays showing the ball going just over the top of the stumps.

Root progressed to 50 (five fours) before edging a catch to de Kock to give Morris his debut Test wicket – and leave England 223-5 and at a potential crossroads.

But in the final session – and with South Africa visibly tiring in the heat – Stokes and Jonny Bairstow shared an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 94 to reassert the grip England had enjoyed – and conceded – earlier.

Batting calmly and sensibly, Bairstow steadied the ship before Stokes launched a blistering 81st over assault when Morris took the new ball.

Stokes brought up his half-century with two boundaries, the first an imperious on-drive, and with two more perimeter shots proceeded to take 17 runs off an over which re-directed the England innings.

By the close, the maverick Durham talent had plundered a six and 11 fours in a superb unbeaten 74 which, with Bairstow (39 not out) clearly growing in confidence, saw England finish the day on top at 317-5.

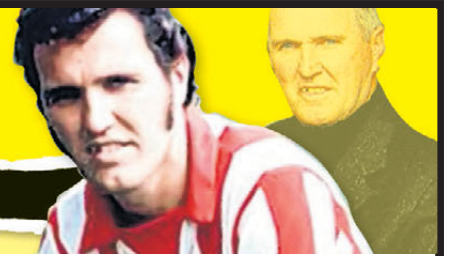


Groundsman Evan Flint



# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



## Ighalo has world at his goalscoring feet

**SCORING goals is a difficult thing and finding players who can do it at the top level is just as tough.**

It is this that explains the remarkable phenomenon of players such as Fraizer Campbell, Carlton Cole and the current archetype of the five-goal-a-season striker's genre, Danny Graham, managing to maintain Premier League contracts year after year.

Big teams tend to snaffle up the best forwards before they even blossom into regular goalscorers, leaving the rest of the top flight perennially scrabbling around for the scraps. It is this that has made Odion Ighalo's remarkable goalscoring run at Watford all the more impressive.

Before joining Watford last season, the Nigerian was a virtual unknown. He played for a couple of clubs in his home country before moving to Norway in 2007.

A season later he was brought into the Pozzo system at Udinese, but barely registered an appearance in his six years at the Italian club. Instead he was farmed out on loan to Cesena before joining the second of the Pozzo family's three clubs, Granada.

Had he been as impressive then as he is now, he would surely have been brought straight back to Italy, at the time, Udinese were unmistakably the jewel in the Pozzo crown and were regular qualifiers for Champions League.

Instead, he scored only 12 goals in over 70 appearances in Spain and little was expected when the Pozzos shifted him over to the third of their three clubs, Watford.

But in the English second division, Ighalo found his feet, netting 20 times in their promotion season despite making only 22 starts.

Any fear that he was a classic second-tier specialist, a modern day Sylvan Ebanks-Blake, was soon dispelled as Watford made their first top-flight appearances since 2007.

Over the first half of the season, he's scored 14 Premier League goals, and trails joint-top scorers Jamie Vardy and Romelu Lukaku by only one goal. In the entirety of 2015, no one in English football has found the net more often.

Of course, the surprise element that has made his run so enjoyable could also be evident in Vardy's hot streak at Leicester City.

But there rightly remains suspicion that Vardy, while undoubtedly being a fine finisher and as irritatingly tenacious as any forward in the Premier League, lacks the technique to cut it at Champions League level.

Roy Hodgson could still reasonably make a case to leave him at home instead of taking him to this summer's Euros.

Ighalo, on the other hand, is the complete package. And unlike Vardy, we can all enjoy his form without having to confront the perennial dilemma of admiring art in spite of



Watford's Odion Ighalo and Southampton's Matt Targett battle for the ball during the Premier League match at Vicarage Road

the artist.

Ighalo is a striker who manages to combine sublime technique with a physical frame as imposing as any of his rivals.

He is as capable with the ball at his feet as he is bringing down a clearance and easing the pressure on Watford's defence.

Such a fleet-footed physicality has enabled him to create goals from the most unlikely of situations, skipping past defenders who are slower in both mind and body.

He undoubtedly does, as Harry Redknapp would say, have a "lovely touch for a big man".

Such well-roundedness is a huge benefit for a defensively-minded side like Watford, who can sit back and soak up pressure, safe in the knowledge that they have got goals in

their attack.

There is always the chance the most aimless of hoofs could be swiftly turned into a goalscoring chance with a deft Ighalo touch. It's little wonder that they are concerned about the prospect of losing him.

Of course, that's unlikely to happen as early as January, with the financial benefits of another season in the Premier League likely to ensure that he will be a Hornets player when the next window shuts.

But beyond then, there's a real chance he will be off to one of Europe's biggest clubs.

Ighalo is almost certainly good enough to play at the very top and at 26, he would presumably be available at a price palatable for both buyer and seller.

He's old enough that Watford could make a

big buck and young enough that he still has several years left in the tank.

Atletico Madrid have been the latest to be linked with a move and as a team that play in a similar style to Watford, it would be a great capture for Diego Simeone's side.

But for now, Hornets supporters should be enjoying watching Ighalo.

He is a brilliant player, and having made a name for himself in England, he should soon be playing his football on the continental stage.

In all likelihood, they will soon be back to watching the Grahams of the Premier League lumbering around Vicarage Road and holding onto the dream that they too will one day be struck by a sudden divine inspiration.



## Adam Rant



The week's big talking points  
with ADAM LEITCH

# Darts snobs are just missing out

Sport is meant to be enjoyed – and darts is great fun

**DARTS is a sport which suffers from a fair amount of snobbery.**

A lot of people seem set to automatic when it comes to turning their noses up at it.

It does seem rather hard to fathom when you reckon that pretty much any sports fan watching some of the quite brilliant games in this year's PDC World Championships would be absorbed by the tension.

For Adam Rant, a good sporting event is often less about the sport itself, and more about whether you get wrapped up in it. That's when watching sport elevates itself to a level somewhere nearer to actually participating in it.

Though we all have our favourites, for most people there are a great many different sports that can provide it.

Just flick through Sky Sports on an evening and see the random things televised live. Stop and watch something that you think you have no real interest in to get the point.

If you love the drama that sport can somehow wrap you up in, then chances are you will enjoy it.

Darts is pretty much king among them when it comes to absorbing televised sport.

It needs very little knowledge or understanding of the game and you don't have to have had an amazing athletic career to be able to work out how hard it is to be as good as the guys you are watching.

It is filled with emotion and drama, it rattles along at breakneck speed, and the PDC do a great job of adding some colour and razzmatazz to the event.

The standard now is astonishing. Michael van Gerwen was beaten by Raymond van Barneveld in one of the greatest games ever played with an average of more than 105. That is simply astonishing.

The standard of the PDC is now so high that from the third round onwards you are getting top players facing each other, all regularly averaging three figures. Incredible stuff.

Adam Rant was though reminded of the sporting snobbery surrounding darts recently.

He was watching a thriller, decided in the final set, with a football fan.

Yes, a football fan, who actually had the cheek to turn his nose up at darts.



Raymond van Barneveld celebrates his victory over Michael van Gerwen during the PDC World Championship

He cited the fact the players are often overweight and that the crowd were noisy and boisterous and, wait for it, singing football songs.

Now Adam Rant loves darts, and he loves football.

But if there are one group of people who cannot turn their noses up

at darts it's football fans.

You can almost understand it when it comes to golf. Those guys don't like it being pointed out that the pursuit they hold in such high esteem is not really that much different in its skills set and athletic requirements to darts. It's outside

darts if you will.

Ultimately, sport is sport, there to be enjoyed, not to be ranked.

It's been some World Championships and for those who missed out on watching it because of their own prejudices, you can only feel sorry for them.

## Power of TV dates

LEEDS chairman Massimo Cellino produced a feat of brinkmanship when he made a stand over Sky's changing of his club's fixtures.

Now, had it been from any other chairman, one with less of a record of madcap antics, this might have actually been taken more seriously.

While his frustration was in part a financial one, as he believes his club have been negatively impacted by being televised on Sky ten times this season, there is an increasing issue for the fans.

We all know and understand how much money TV invests, but it does seem to come at the cost of supporters who go to the games. TV dates should be set further in advance than they are, and it often seems even the six-week rule is not adhered to.

If you want an example of when it seems out of control take Saints.

Their game against West Ham has been moved to a Monday night for coverage on Sky. However, if either team has an FA Cup fourth round replay it will change to Saturday evening.

When is the FA Cup fourth round? The previous weekend, meaning there could be less than a week for the fixture moving by more than 48 hours. How is that fair on supporters?



Massimo Cellino

## January is just hype

AFTER all the build up for the January transfer window, it is again likely to be very quiet.

There might be the odd move here and there, but clubs are increasingly recognising that major business belongs in the summer rather than halfway through the campaign.

Even the big clubs are paying less attention to the January window now, acknowledging there is a lot to be said for stability in the playing squad, and that the prices are understandably inflated, even by football's standards.

Many of the bigger clubs should be more concerned with their managers than their players anyway.



# SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

## We March On, yes - but where exactly to?

**Saints at crossroads and board MUST back boss Koeman**

**EVERY time I drive into the city for a home game, I see the banners.**

'WE MARCH ON' banners hanging from lamp posts.

I am now increasingly wondering, where to exactly?

The recent run of results is a worry.

After the Arsenal game, we were all hoping we had turned the corner.

Unfortunately, coming back from West Ham, I am not so sure.

Before last season started, all the pundits had us written off before a ball was even kicked.

After selling the nucleus of a squad, they had every reason to think so.

Getting in Koeman turned out to be a master stroke.

A seasoned manager with good connections and experience of working on limited budgets.

Finishing 7th was some achievement. Unfortunately, the board thought they could pull off the same stunt twice.

I would argue the replacements are not as good and our league position does not lie.

We are only six points off the bottom three. Southampton FC keep stating they are looking for a top 4 finish.

HOW exactly, I wonder?

Certainly not by selling the best players, that is for sure.

We are now at a crossroads.

There will not be much in it in points between finishing 8th of 16th.

Teams like Palace, Stoke, Watford and even Bournemouth have stolen a march on us.



Andy Carroll scores West Ham's winning goal on Bank Holiday Monday.

If finishing 7th is as good as it will get, why should players stay?

If players know they can earn far more elsewhere, of course their heads will be turned.

If RK knows he'll have the rug pulled from under him each transfer window, will he want to stay and see his reputation tarnished?

Let us also be under no illusions: most foreign players are mere mercenaries, they don't care about the clubs or fans.

They are mostly looking for the next payday.

We keep being told, we can't force players

to stay if they want to move on.

But I cannot remember one single team being decimated and raided by so called bigger clubs like Saints have.

Leicester are doing brilliantly, it'll be interesting to see how they handle big bids for Vardy, Maher and Kante. Everton resisted bids for their star players. Stoke hung on to their stars and strengthened.

We keep hearing about our fabled academy, but where are these players?

Apart from JWP, who is in and out, we have no academy first team regulars.

We are supposed to have this mythical black box at Staplewood, but how many

players have we actually recruited by it?

I can't name any.

I am of the firm belief that RK - and him only! - saved SFC last season with his astute signings and his cool handling of a situation which threatened to spiral out of control.

As I said, the board tell us they have lofty ambitions, but they do not seem to be backed up by actions.

During the current transfer window, are we going to see our club cave in again to big money bids for Wanyama, Mane and maybe one more player?

Are the board going to give RK money to sort our problem positions out, most notably the right back?

We seem to have a careless attitude towards managers.

If the board honestly think they'll strike lucky again ... they are playing a very dangerous game.

As things stand, I feel cheated.

We pay a lot of money to support our team, but we are not exactly valued.

Once we have done our early bird thing pre season, we end up watching a very different team to the one we are promised.

Why can't the board come out with a simple statement...YES, we are going to kick on and are going to back it up by keeping our best players and recruit a few more quality players...or, NO...we aim to carry on as we are and hope we can survive.

Every fan can then draw their own conclusions.

This transfer window, it is not only the club who are at a crossroads.

I should imagine a lot of fans have come to the same junction.

On social media, I read a lot of comments about having faith in the board and RK.

I am afraid blind faith and sticking our heads in the sand are not going make the ugly reality go away.

**Martin van Tuyt**  
Kingsland season ticket holder.

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## England's top games versus the Welsh

ENGLAND and Wales have been drawn together at this summer's European Championships in what could prove the defining fixture of either team's tournament. They join Russia and Slovakia in Group B.

Here, the *Sports Pink* recalls five other memorable encounters between them.

**ENGLAND 2-0 WALES** (Old Trafford, October 2004)

Following England's disappointing start to their World Cup 2006 qualification campaign - they surrendered a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 away to Austria and required an own goal to defeat Poland 2-1 - Sven-Goran Eriksson's team required an impressive performance to relieve some of the pressure that had been built by such high expectations.

Captain David Beckham was similarly under scrutiny, having recently disappointed throughout Euro 2004, as was Rio Ferdinand, who had been recalled following an eight-month ban for missing a drugs test.

England scored with their first attack when Frank Lampard's shot was deflected in off of Michael Owen, before Beckham secured victory with perhaps his finest England goal by curling into the top-right corner, from



David Beckham scored a great goal against Wales in 2004. midfield, 12 minutes from time.

**WALES 0-2 ENGLAND** (Millenium Stadium, March 2011)

England were still attempting to put their disappointing 2010 World Cup campaign behind them, while the late Gary Speed was overseeing his first qualifier since his appointment as Wales manager.

Expectations were far from high by either teams' standards, but England manager Fabio Capello selected an overhauled team in a new 4-3-3 formation in the same fixture John Terry's second reign as captain began, and two goals inside the opening 14 minutes from Frank Lampard and Darren Bent secured a deserved victory.

Jack Wilshere and Scott Parker, playing alongside Lampard in midfield, particularly impressed.

**Wales 1-0 England**, Racecourse Ground, May 1984

Wales' last victory over England came in the final fixture between the two nations at a Home Nations Championship.

Striker Mark Hughes, making his Wales debut, years before his appointment as manager, scored the game's only goal after 17 minutes.

● continued on facing page

# Saints' best FA Cup

SAINTS return to FA Cup third round action at home to Crystal Palace next weekend.

Here, the *Sports Pink* takes a trip down memory lane and recalls ten of the club's best third round results.

**Saints 5 Bury 1, 1947**

Saints' first post-war FA Cup tie saw them thrash a Bury team who had beaten them in a Second Division game at Gigg Lane the previous week.

Tom Lewis was the star performer, firing a hat-trick.

Jack Bradley and Billy Bevis were also on target in the first half as Saints opened up a 3-1 half-time advantage.

**Manchester City 1 Saints 5, 1960**

Derek Reeves scored four goals in what remains one of Saints' greatest ever cup victories.

Barlow had given top flight City - FA Cup winners as recently as 1956 - an early lead.

But a double blast from Reeves saw Ted Bates' men go into half-time in front.

Reeves netted two more after the break, and George O'Brien was also on target.

It was a great season for Saints, who won the Division 3 title as well with Reeves blasting 39 goals in 46 appearances.

**Saints 7 Ipswich 1, 1961**

Ted Bates' Saints hammered Alf Ramsey's Ipswich, scoring six times in a remarkable first half performance against their fellow second tier side.

George O'Brien fired a first half treble, with Tommy Mulgrew, Terry Paine and Harry Penk also on target.

John Page provided Ipswich with their consolation, when he scored an own goal in the second half, but Mulgrew wrapped up the scoring.

Even more remarkably, Ipswich went on to win the Second Division title that season - and 12 months later won the First Division title too!

**Saints 3 Newcastle United 0, 1970**

This tie took place in the middle of a two-legged Fairs Cup tie between the two clubs.

Saints led at half-time through a Mike Channon goal.

Frank Saul made it 2-0 from close range before the same player hammered in a 20-yarder to complete the scoring.

Newcastle were back at The Dell 11 days later for the second leg of their Fairs Cup tie, which they drew 1-1 to progress on the away goals rule.

**Aston Villa 1 Saints 2, 1976**

Saints began the journey which would take them to their greatest ever day with this shock win.

Villa were in the top flight, having won promotion - as well as the League Cup - the previous season.

Saints, of course, were in their second season in the second tier.

Lawrie McMenemy's side had



Anders Svensson scores for Saints in their 4-0 win over Tottenham in 2003.



Michael Svensson slides in to give Saints the lead against Tottenham in 2003.

only earned a second chance thanks to Hughie Fisher's 89th minute leveller at The Dell.

Jim McCalliog opened the scoring at Villa Park, but Ray Graydon - later to become a Saints coach - poached an equaliser before half-time.

McCalliog scored the winner in extra time, thumping in a 103rd-minute goal from the edge of the penalty area.

It was a surprise win for Saints,

but even bigger surprises would come ...

**Nottingham Forest 1 Saints 2, 1984**

Saints, lying fourth in the top flight, were drawn away at fifth-placed Forest.

All the goals came in the last 13 minutes.

After Steve Moran had put the visitors in front, Paul Hart levelled.

Moran was not to be outdone, though, and headed an 86th minute

winner.

**Saints 4 Sunderland 0, 1985**

Saints stormed to victory against a Sunderland side who would end the season relegated from the top flight.

A Sunderland side that would react to their demotion by persuading Lawrie McMenemy to leave The Dell and take over at Roker Park.

Steve Moran and Alan Curtis fired Saints into a commanding half-time lead.



# third-round wins



Guly Do Prado smacks home Saints' second goal against Blackpool in 2011.



Saints score in their 3-0 derby win over Pompey 20 years ago.

Moran grabbed a second and Joe Jordan was also on target.

#### Saints 3 Pompey 0, 1996

Ok, Saints were in the top flight and Pompey were a lowly second tier club.

But it was still the FA Cup and it was still a comfortable win over their arch rivals. So that makes it memorable.

Jim Magilton scored the only goal of the first half, and the Northern Irishman later added a second.

Ten minutes from time, Matt Le Tissier set up Neil Shipperley to complete the scoring.

#### Saints 4 Tottenham 0, 2003

Saints thrashed a Spurs side managed by their former boss Glenn Hoddle in a tie televised live on the BBC.

Michael Svensson scored the only goal of the first half, from close range after keeper Kasey Keller failed to handle a James Beattie free kick.

Jo Tessem and Anders Svensson joined in the fun after the break before top scorer Beattie completed a memorable victory.

#### Saints 2 Blackpool 0, 2011

With Saints going well in the third tier and Blackpool struggling in what would be their only Premier League season, this didn't have the impact of a major shock.

Lee Barnard opened the scoring eight minutes into the second half, and Guly Do Prado sealed victory

with a thumping shot two minutes from time.

And here are five of the club's worst third round results ..

#### Leicester 3 Saints 1, 1982

Gary Lineker was among the goals as Saints suffered an FA Cup exit at lower division Leicester.

The Foxes had been relegated from the top flight the previous season, but opened up a 2-0 first half lead thanks to a brace from Alan Young.

Kevin Keegan brought Saints back into the tie, but Lineker sealed the Foxes' success in the second half.

#### Port Vale 1 Saints 0, 1994

Saints were second bottom of the Premier League while the Valiants were gunning for promotion from the third tier.

Vale had deservedly earned a replay by drawing 1-1 at The Dell in what proved to be Ian Branfoot's last game in charge.

Managerless, Saints then travelled to the Potteries and Bernie Slaven scored the only goal in the first half to pile the misery on the visitors.

Tommy Widdrington – later to play for Vale – was sent off late on for a two-footed knee-high tackle.

#### Reading 3 Saints 1, 1997

Franny Benali was sent off in the second half for lashing out with his elbow as Saints crashed out at Elm Park.

The second tier Royals led at half-time through a James Lambert strike.

Egil Ostenstad levelled but Darren Caskey restored the hosts' lead shortly after.

After Benali saw red, Trevor Morley wrapped up the win from the penalty spot.

#### Fulham 1 Saints 0, 1999

Having already been beaten by Kevin Keegan's third tier Cottagers in the League Cup, Saints completed an unwanted double by also losing in the FA Cup.

The west Londoners had drawn 1-1 at The Dell, Egil Ostenstad rescuing Dave Jones' Saints with a late leveller.

Barry Hayles grabbed the only goal at Craven Cottage as Saints were dumped out by third division opposition for the second time in six seasons.

#### Rotherham 2 Saints 1, 2002

Gordon Strachan's first FA Cup tie as Saints boss ended with an embarrassing loss at Millmoor.

Rotherham were in the lower reaches of the second tier at the time, and would stay up on goal difference, but still deserved their victory.

In a tie which saw Agustin Delgado handed his first competitive start for Saints, Rotherham opened up a 2-0 lead before Marian Pahars halved the deficit with a penalty.

The next FA Cup tie Strachan was to lose was the following season's final, the 1-0 defeat to Arsenal at the Millennium Stadium.

## Brotherly love as England win easily

● from facing page

That secured Wales' third win over their rivals in seven years.

Ray Wilkins captained England from midfield on the day; Wales' captain was defender Kevin Ratcliffe and their line-up also included Neville Southall and Ian Rush.

Amazing to think those three legendary Welsh players never got the chance to appear for their country in either a World Cup or a European Championship finals.

#### WALES 4-1 ENGLAND (Racecourse Ground, May 1980)

Ron Greenwood's England were ultimately humiliated in what was perhaps Wales' most convincing result against their rivals.

Paul Mariner gave England the lead in the Home International encounter, but thereafter Wales were dominant.

The hosts secured victory with goals from Mickey Thomas, Ian Walsh and Leighton James, in addition to Phil Thompson's own goal.

England's team, incidentally, was far from weak: Ray Clemence, Phil Neal, Thompson, Glenn Hoddle and Trevor Brooking were among their starting XI.

Wales were managed by a man called England - Mike England.



Bobby Charlton scored against the Welsh in 1966.

#### ENGLAND 5-1 WALES (Wembley Stadium, November 1966)

This particular fixture was a qualifier for the 1968 European Championships and a Home International.

World champions England set a national record by naming an unchanged team for the sixth consecutive match.

Two goals from Geoff Hurst gave England a 2-0 lead, before Wyn Davies responded for Wales.

Bobby Charlton, until recently England's record goalscorer before Wayne Rooney claimed it off him, restored their two-goal advantage before Terry Hennessey's own goal, and a fifth goal from Jack Charlton secured a 5-1 victory.

The Charlton brothers, to this day, remain the last siblings to score for England in the same international.



## Poch: I don't mind our fans dreaming

MAURICIO Pochettino has no problem with Tottenham fans dreaming of the title and feels their belief can spur his side to silverware in 2016.

Tottenham begin the New Year just four points behind league leaders Arsenal and could close that gap with a win at Everton on Sunday.

They have won their last three matches in a row and lost only twice all season.

Arsenal and Manchester City remain the favourites to be crowned champions in May but neither have pulled away from the chasing pack, while Manchester United and Liverpool are struggling to keep pace with surprise contenders Leicester.

Tottenham's form suggests they could challenge, a theory backed up by their last-gasp win at Watford on Monday.

And former Saints boss Pochettino is happy for the club's fans to believe.

"Our supporters are very happy with the team," Pochettino said.

"They share our values. You can see every game at White Hart Lane or away they are unbelievable and back the team.

"It is a very important thing our supporters believe in the team and that we can achieve good things. This is the most important thing. It is the first step to winning some titles."



Mauricio Pochettino: His Spurs side have only lost twice.

He added: "We don't set limits on our possibilities. The important thing is we all believe in the way we took 18 months ago.

"We are very ambitious. The group is strong. There is enough quality. In football anything can happen."

Everton are 11th following Monday's 4-3 defeat to Stoke, a loss which means they have managed only three wins in 10 at Goodison Park this season.

Spurs will hope to capitalise on their opponents' stuttering home form but to do so they will have to stop Toffees striker Romelu Lukaku, who has scored 11 goals in 10 matches.

Pochettino admits the Belgian hitman is a threat but believes all opponents are starting to raise their game against his in-form team.

"Lukaku is in a very good moment and is a very good player but Everton have different players who can put us in a very difficult situation," Pochettino said.

"Everton have a very good team and after the defeat to Stoke maybe they want revenge.

"Teams now are very over-motivated against us. They know they need to run and be aggressive because we are strong.

"But we need to feel confident in our skill and try to win the game. Always in different games you need to try to stop

# Saints' most amazing

**THE opening of the January 2016 transfer window was eagerly awaited by Saints fans.**

Many will be hoping Ronald Koeman is allowed to bring in some fresh blood during the next few weeks, *writes SIMON CARTER.*

They will also be hoping that Saints keep hold of the likes of Sadio Mane and Victor Wanyama.

Whatever this month's window holds in store for fans, though, one thing is for certain.

There is no way it will turn anything like the transfer window of ten years ago.

Back then, George Burley had only been in charge of Saints a week prior to the January 2006 window opening.

Within that window, though, Burley would allow an entire team to leave St Mary's – among them some experienced campaigners.

In their place, he would bring in EIGHT new signings – and almost immediately throw them ALL into the starting line-up.

The January 2006 window, therefore, is without parallel in the history of Southampton Football Club.

And here, the Sports Pink looks back at how it unfolded ...

### OUT

**Alan Blayney:** The Irish goalkeeper had made three Premier League appearances for Saints.

On his debut, in a 3-3 home draw with Newcastle in May 2004, he produced a save from ex-Saint Alan Shearer that won the Sky Save of the Season award.

Blayney also played in the season-closing 2-1 loss at Charlton, and in a 2-2 home draw with West Bromwich Albion the following November.

With Saints having Antti Niemi and Paul Smith as frontline keepers, Blayney was surplus to requirements and sold to Doncaster Rovers for £50,000.

He was to stay just over a year at Rovers before returning to his native Northern Ireland.

Aged 34, he has played one league game for Ballymena this season.

**Antti Niemi:** Five days after Blayney was sold, Burley was allowing another goalkeeper to leave.

Niemi had proved himself a real fans' favourite ever since his arrival from Glasgow Rangers in the summer of 2002.

Saints' relegation to the Championship in May 2005, however, had made it obvious that the club would do well to hold on to him.

So it proved, with Premier League Fulham signing him for a fee of around £1m.

The Finnish international made 62 top flight appearances for the Cottagers before leaving at the end of the 2007/08 season.

**Neil McCann:** Signed for £1.5m from Glasgow Rangers in the summer of 2003, McCann was a huge flop at St Mary's.



Crowd favourite Antti Niemi left St Mary's ten years ago this month to join Fulham.



A 16-year-old Theo Walcott joined Arsenal in January 2006.

He appeared in 40 league games for the club - 19 as a sub - and failed to score a single goal.

To absolutely non-one's surprise, he was allowed to return north of the border to Hearts.

McCann had started his career at Tynecastle, before moving to Ibrox

for £2m in 1998.

Saints cut their losses on the player, letting him return to Hearts on a free.

**Dennis Wise:** The former England international had been brought to Saints by Harry Red-

knapp in the summer of 2005.

He made 11 Championship appearances, the last in the 4-3 home loss to Leeds in November 2005 after Saints had led 3-0 at half-time.

Wise and Dave Bassett took caretaker charge of Saints following Redknapp's defection back to Frat-

**GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)**



# ng January window



Rory Delap, right, was another experienced man to leave St Mary's ten years ago this month.



Brett Ormerod left Saints to join Preston North End in January 2006.

ton Park.

But after Burley arrived it was obvious Wise's days were numbered, and he duly joined Saints' divisional rivals Coventry.

He promptly netted four goals for the Sky Blues in his first three games, and ended the season with six goals in 13 appearances. He

then retired from playing.

**Theo Walcott:** He had started the 2005/06 season by rewriting the Saints record books.

When he came on as a sub in the opening game against Wolves at St Mary's, aged just 16, Walcott was the youngest first team player in

the club's history.

It is a record he still holds.

His first start did not come until October 2005, when he scored in a loss at Leeds. He also scored in his next two games and it was soon obvious Saints were not going to be able to hang onto the player for very long.

So it turned out, when Arsenal swooping to sign him on January 20 2006.

Remarkably, within a few months, and without playing a single first team game for the Gunners, Walcott had been named in Sven-Goran Eriksson's World Cup finals squad and made his full England debut.

**Brett Ormerod:** Signed by Gordon Strachan for £1.7m from Blackpool in December 2001, Ormerod was another big money signing - and £1.7m was still fairly big money in those days - who left St Mary's in the great January 2006 exodus for nothing.

The striker was allowed to join Saints' Championship rivals Preston on a free.

He later returned to Blackpool and helped them win promotion to the Premier League. In the 2010/11 campaign, he achieved the feat of scoring for the Tangerines in each of the top four divisions.

Ormerod, now aged 39, is still playing - for Lancashire non leaguers Bamber Bridge.

**Tomasz Hajto:** Harry Redknapp signed the Polish defender on a free in the summer of 2005.

He played 20 Championship games without setting St Mary's alight, and he was another player who was unsurprisingly quickly ditched by Burley.

Hajto moved onto Derby, where he only made five Championship appearances before returning to his home country.

**Nigel Quashie:** The combative midfielder was one of Harry Redknapp's first signings in the January 2005 transfer window.

Quashie was recruited for £2.1m from Portsmouth, and tasked with helping to keep Saints up.

He failed.

In January 2006, and after just 37 league games for Saints, Quashie returned to the Premier League to sign for West Bromwich Albion for £1.2m.

He found his new club embroiled in a relegation scrap too, and it was another one he couldn't escape from.

**Rory Delap:** The midfielder had become Saints' record signing in the summer of 2001 when he arrived from Derby for £4.1m.

He was to remain the club's record signing until the summer of 2012.

After 132 league appearances, though, Delap was allowed to join Sunderland on a free towards the end of the hectic January 2006 window.

He was to spend just one year in the north east, though, before moving on again to Stoke.

There he was to spend six memorable years, helping the club become a mainstay in the Premier League and earning fame for his long throws.

continued on page 17

## Arise Sir AP! How Twitter reacted ...

How racing and beyond reacted on social media to news of Tony McCoy's knighthood:

**Tony McCoy:** "For once words fail me. A knighthood is the greatest honour, feel very proud for myself, family & my sport. Thanks for all your kind messages."

**Jonjo O'Neill, trainer:** "Delighted for @AP\_McCoy. Richly deserved recognition of his amazing career which places him up there, for ever, with the sporting greats!"

**Nicky Byrne, singer-songwriter:** "What @AP\_McCoy has achieved is remarkable. He's a superstar and a gentleman."

**Sam Twiston-Davies, jockey:** "Massive well done champ!!"

**Paul Struthers, CEO of the Professional Jockeys Association:** "Sir Gordon Richards. And now Sir @AP\_McCoy - my honour was you being my president. #arisesirchamp."

**David Pipe, trainer:** "Arise Sir Anthony McCoy! Sincerest congratulations from all at Pond House. We couldn't be any more pleased for you."

**John McCricker, racing pundit:** "Sir AP+Lady Channele @AP\_McCoy gives credibility to tarnished Honours system. Proven world's greatest sportsperson. Supreme for 20 yrs."



Tony McCoy has been knighted in the New Year's Honours list

**Brian Moore, former England rugby union international:** "@AP\_McCoy Well done big man - fully deserved."

**Ed Dunlop, trainer:** "Many many congratulations, no one more deserving of such an award."

**Mark Pougatch, TV presenter:** "Just happen to be watching the AP film when the news comes through @AP\_McCoy has been given a knighthood. So so deserved."

**Nick Scholfield, jockey:** "@AP\_McCoy Congratulations Sir! deserved #NewYearsHonours."

**Steve Drowne, jockey:** "@AP\_McCoy well done mate the ultimate accolade! #SirAnthony."

**Brendan Powell, trainer:** "Just heard the @AP\_McCoy news. Richly deserved. Congrats."

**Gareth Bale, former Saints footballer:** "Delighted for @AP\_McCoy! Fully deserved #SirAP."

**Willie Mullins, trainer:** "Congratulations @AP\_McCoy on his Knighthood. It must be the hardest-earned OBE. He is the ultimate ambassador for our sport and so deserving."

**Professional Jockeys Association:** "SPOTY 2010. SPOTY Lifetime Achievement. 25 Lesters. OBE. And now a knighthood. We're so proud of you Sir @AP\_McCoy - a true sporting legend."

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## The sporting greats we lost in 2015 ...

**RICHIE BENAUD:** The former Australia cricket captain, journalist and broadcaster died in April at the age of 84. After making 63 Test match appearances, the man dubbed the 'Voice of Cricket' went on to become as revered in England, where he worked on television from 1963 to 2005, as he was in his homeland.

**JULES BIANCHI:** The French Formula One driver died in July from head injuries sustained in a crash at the 2014 Japanese Grand Prix, since when he had been in a coma. He was 25.

**GERRY BYRNE:** The Liverpool-born left-back spent his entire career with the Reds, is best remembered for playing through their extra-time win against Leeds in the 1965 FA Cup final after breaking his collarbone, and was also a member of England's World Cup-winning squad in 1966. He died in November aged 77.

**BOBBY CAMPBELL:** Former Liverpool and Portsmouth player Campbell, who died in November at the age of 78, was Chelsea manager from 1988 to 1991, getting the Blues promoted back to the top flight in 1989 before guiding them to a fifth-placed finish a year later.

**BRIAN CLOSE:** Close became the youngest player ever to win a Test cap for England when he made his debut in 1949 as an 18-year-old. The famously brave batsman went on to lead his country seven times in 22 Tests, and also captained his native county Yorkshire to four county championship titles. He died in September at the age of 84.

**PAT EDDERY:** Jockey Eddery, who died in November aged 63, was crowned champion 11 times, claimed four Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and won over 4,600 races before his retirement in 2003.

**MARTON FULOP:** Goalkeeper Fulop died in November at the age of 32 after a battle with cancer. The Hungary international played in England between 2004 and 2012 and is best remembered for his time with Sunderland. He was also on the books of Tottenham, Ipswich and West Brom and had loan spells with Manchester City, Stoke, Leicester, Chesterfield and Coventry.

**SIR JACK HAYWARD:** The boyhood Wolves fan was the club's owner from 1990 to 2007 and saved the Midlands outfit from possible extinction. Hayward died in January aged 91.

**DANNY JONES:** Keighley Cougars and Wales half-back Jones collapsed after being replaced during his club's match at London Skolars in May and efforts to resuscitate him failed. He died of a cardiac arrest triggered by hereditary heart disease. He was 29.



Richie Benaud

# Spitfires no longer t

## CHRIS Todd exudes positivity.

An Eastleigh league match these days is routinely topped and tailed by the manager's thoughts on how the game in question will impact upon his side's hopes of clinching the National League title, writes **PAUL McNAMARA**.

And the Welshman's approach to his first managerial stab at an FA Cup run, which has led his team all the way to next week's third round encounter with Bolton Wanderers, has been similarly upbeat.

With every challenge and subsequent victory, Todd has talked up his troops' chances of progressing further.

The 34-year-old believed Eastleigh would win at Crewe in round one. Conversely, most Spitfires supporters who journeyed to Cheshire would have been thrilled simply to see their side give the League One team a run for their money, before returning to the more prosaic business of accumulating league points.

Nevertheless, Ben Strevens scored a second-half penalty at Gresty Road and Todd's confidence was proved well-placed.

### Quizzed

Two days after that victory, Todd, when quizzed on prime time terrestrial television, spoke with compelling certainty about the trip to



Chris Todd

Stourbridge that the second round draw had just thrown up for his team.

Play like we can and we will win, was the gist of Todd's message. He was spot on, again.

Eastleigh rode their luck on occasion against a very decent Northern Premier League side. When the crunch came, though, the Spitfires' class bore fruit, as they emerged 2-0 victors.

The result was fitting reward for an efficient performance that mixed graft, pragmatism and flickers of Eastleigh's superior quality.

Todd's team have set their standard. And perhaps it is time that we judged Eastleigh on this. Time to cast aside the perception of the upstart outfit, latterly made good.

When Stewart Donald's initial intention to provide the Spitfires with some sponsorship cash back in 2011 turned into an altogether more all-consuming commitment, the transformation of a football



Ben Strevens scores Eastleigh's penalty winner at Crewe.



Eastleigh celebrate their FA Cup win at two divisions higher Crewe.

club was underway.

No matter that Eastleigh were Wessex League champions only eight years before Donald became involved.

### Monumental feat

The Paul Doswell masterminded

climb from that lowly level to Conference South football in the space of three years was a monumental feat.

But by the time that Eastleigh's current owner arrived on the Silverlake Stadium scene, however, the club was treading water.

Speaking in October 2013 Donald revealed that was a predicament he was never going to accept.

Fresh to the club and unbound by its historical place in the pecking order, Donald had a job on his hands to change the prevailing mindset at his new home.



# the upstart outfit



Eastleigh players and fans celebrate after the win at Stourbridge.



Josh Payne has just scored Eastleigh's second in their 2-0 FA Cup win at Stourbridge.

But through Richard Hill's 2014 Conference South champions, to a stellar first year in non-league's top division and on to Todd's bullish unit today, the transformation is all but complete.

Rarely will you listen to Donald discussing his club without hearing words such as; ambition, progression, improvement, success.

And the speed of on-pitch growth at Eastleigh is being matched by what is happening at their formerly homely Stoneham Lane ground.

Go to watch the Spitfires now and it feels like you are going to a real football venue, to watch a real football team.

This is why Todd often litters his interviews with references to Eastleigh being a 'proper' football club. The man who replaced Hill in September, originally on a caretaker basis, before being appointed full-time on October 15, is on-message; his train of thought tightly aligned with Donald's.

Hill's part in the club's rise will never be forgotten. But when the former boss hit a wall, Todd took up the baton – and ran with it, so fast and so courageously as to blow away everybody who watches this team.

Todd was in attendance, once more, for the FA Cup's televised third round draw. The cameras closed in to gauge the manager's reaction, and that of chief executive Mark Jewell, when the Spitfires were pulled out against Bolton, four-times winners of the competition.

While it was almost possible to see Jewell's mind frantically whirling away, weighing up the plusses and minuses of the hand dealt to his club, Todd was inscrutable.

If the chief exec, such a bag of nerves at Stourbridge two days previously, was conflicted in any way, having missed out on Manchester United or Chelsea, but having avoided Colchester United and Newport County, then Todd had only one thought.

He was already sizing up his team's chances of springing a shock of gargantuan proportions, one that would banish even the victory at Crewe into the shade.

Viewed in the cold light of day this is a wonderful draw for Eastleigh, perhaps the best of all worlds. A game at Old Trafford or Stamford Bridge would, of course, be a fantastic occasion – one that nobody involved with the club could have dared dream of even five years ago.

What's more, a day out at a Premier League giant brings with it a veritable financial jackpot for the humble underdog. On the pitch, though, history tells us that we might have had a damp squib – that the fun and excitement would have been exclusive to the build-up to kick-off. From that moment on, reality could have bitten.

And the modern-day Eastleigh do not want to play second fiddle to anybody.

Make no mistake, Bolton come to the Silverlake as overwhelming favourites to make round four. But this north-west footballing institution, whose name summons thoughts of their electric old Burnden Park ground, and the famous 1953 'Matthews' cup final, when they lost 4-3 to Blackpool, has fallen on tougher times.

More recently renowned for their FA Cup exploits in the 1990's – Arsenal, Liverpool and Everton all fell victim to the Trotters' propensity for slaying a giant in that era – Bolton are now languishing at the foot of the Championship, beset by a host of off-field problems.

Yet, this is a Wanderers team that turned over Blackburn Rovers in their final game of 2015 – while, concurrently, Eastleigh played out a draw with Aldershot.

Neil Lennon will bring a side to Hampshire that contains some exceptionally good footballers.

*continued on page 16*

## Sporting stars we lost in 2015 ...

**HOWARD KENDALL:** Everton great Kendall won the league title with the Toffees as a player in 1970 as part of the famous 'Holy Trinity' along with ex-Saint Alan Ball and Colin Harvey, then again as the club's manager in 1985 and 1987, as well as securing the FA Cup in 1984 and European Cup-Winners' Cup a year later.

He died in October aged 69.

**JONAH LOMU:** Former New Zealand wing Lomu, who scored 37 tries in 63 international Test matches and is regarded as one of the All Blacks' greatest ever players, died aged 40 in November.

He had suffered from health problems since his retirement in 2002 due to a rare kidney disease.

**DAVE MACKAY:** The former Scotland player won all three Scottish domestic honours with Hearts in the 1950s, was part of Tottenham's 1961 double-winning team and also went on to star for Derby, before guiding them to the First Division title as manager in 1975. He died in March aged 80.

**CAMILLE MUFFAT:** Swimmer Muffat, winner of the 400 metres freestyle gold medal at London 2012 as well as 200m freestyle silver and 4x200m freestyle relay bronze, was one of three French sports stars who died in March when two helicopters collided in Argentina.



File photo dated 27-05-1995 of New Zealand winger Jonah Lomu scores during filming for reality television show 'Dropped'. She was 25.

**NEVILLE NEVILLE:** The father of former footballers Gary and Phil Neville and England netball coach Tracey Neville died in August aged 65.

He was a former commercial director at Bury, and instrumental in helping lead the club's 'Save Our Shakers' appeal following financial problems in the wake of administration.

**SIR PETER O'SULLIVAN:** The 'Voice of Racing', a commentator for the BBC from 1947 until his retirement in 1997, was awarded a knighthood before his 50th and final Grand National commentary. He died in July aged 97.

**ARNOLD PERALTA:** In December the Ministry of Security in Peralta's native Honduras announced the international midfielder, who helped Rangers win the 2013-14 Scottish League One title in an 18-month spell with the Scottish club, had been found dead in the car park of a La Ceiba shopping centre. He was 26.

**JUSTIN WILSON:** Sheffield-born IndyCar and former Formula One driver Wilson died in August aged 37 as a result of head injuries he suffered hours earlier during a race in Pennsylvania.

**ZITO:** The former Santos and Brazil midfielder, who won the World Cup in both 1958 and 1962, died in June at the age of 82.



## The perfect setting for Eastleigh ...

● from page 15

Mark Davies is an accomplished midfielder, whose career was only prevented from really taking off by a series of cruel injuries.

Ben Amos, David Wheeler, Josh Vela, Darren Pratley, Gary Madine - Saints fans might remember him scoring for Carlisle in the 2010 JPT final win at Wembley - Dean Moxey and Zac Clough, all with varying degrees of experience, are extremely handy players.

But with the Silverlake sure to be crackling, and Eastleigh themselves heavy on individuals with serious pedigree, this match-up is the closest thing to an archetypal FA Cup third round tie that December's draw delivered.

Not because the home team will settle for the role of plucky little battlers, savouring their moment in the spotlight.

No, this is a side that has won at Wrexham and at Tranmere Rovers this season.

Those victories, and countless others, weren't earned off the back of a spirited rearguard, but by a team that is comfortable competing in exalted company.

Eastleigh are challenging for promotion into the Football League by right.



Eastleigh celebrate Josh Payne's goal at Stourbridge.

By Todd's admission, manager and players were frustrated with their two-point return from the Christmas holiday clashes with Bromley and Aldershot.

No longer is such a sentiment cause to reflect on how far Eastleigh, the 2003 Sydenhams Wessex League champions, have come. It is reason to take stock and appreciate what the club now represents.

With their squad chock-full of high-calibre performers, the Spitfires are competing on an even-footing, in every respect, with clubs that were formerly specks on the horizon.

We should now view Eastleigh as serious players. Chris Todd and Stewart Donald would demand it.

Bolton Wanderers at home in the FA Cup: an occasion to be cherished, one that offers a sliver of hope for a memorable triumph.

But most importantly, this will be the perfect setting for Eastleigh to keep moving the narrative forward, to cement their status as a proper football club.

● Don't miss next week's Daily Echo as the countdown continues to Eastleigh's FA Cup tie against Bolton.

# Eastleigh aiming for

## EASTLEIGH bid to join the pantheon of FA Cup legends next weekend.

They host former winners and three divisions higher Bolton Wanderers at a packed Silverlake Stadium.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at some of the great FA Cup third round shocks.

### Worcester 2 Liverpool 1, 1959

A crowd of over 15,000 saw Worcester record a famous win.

Tommy Skuse gave the hosts an early lead, and a Dick White own goal ten minutes from time doubled the lead.

Geoff Twentyman reduced the arrears with an 83rd minute penalty, but the non leaguers held on.

### Manchester City 1 Saints 5, 1960

Derek Reeves scored four goals in what remains one of Saints' greatest ever cup victories.

Barlow had given top flight City - FA Cup winners as recently as 1956 - an early lead.

But a double blast from Reeves saw 'Ted Bates' men go into half-time in front.

Reeves netted two more after the break, and George O'Brien was also on target.

It was a great season for Saints, who won the Division 3 title as well with Reeves blasting 39 goals in 46 appearances.

### Rochdale 2 Coventry 1, 1971

Third tier Rochdale dumped out their top flight visitors in front of over 13,000 at Spotland.

David Cross, who was in the West Ham team that won the FA Cup nine years later, was among the Dale goalscorers.

### Hereford 2 Newcastle 1, Edgar Street 1972

Scene of one of the most famous goals in FA Cup history.

Top flight Newcastle were leading thanks to a Malcolm McDonald goal with just seven minutes remaining of a third round replay.

But, after playing a one-two with Brian Owen, Ronnie Radford struck a thrilling 35-yard equaliser in an Edgar Road mudbath.

And it got better soon after when Ricky George hit a memorable winner in extra time and Hereford became the first non league team to beat a top-flight side in 23 years.

Archive television footage, available on YouTube, provides a wonderful snapshot of the era - with hundreds of parka-clad youngsters staging a joyous pitch invasion after the two goals.

### Harlow 1 Leicester 0, 1980

The Isthmian League club remarkably drew 1-1 at second tier leaders Leicester, thanks to a last minute equaliser, and then won the replay in front of over 9,000 fans.

### Halifax Town 1 Manchester



Trevor Morgan (9) and Phil Brignull celebrate Milton Graham's goal for Cherries against Manchester United in 1984.



Craig McAllister celebrates his goal for Crawley against Derby in 2011.

### City 0, 1980

A 75th minute goal from Paul Hendrie gave the fourth tier hosts a stunning victory over Malcolm Allison's top flight City.

### AFC Bournemouth 2 Manchester United 0, 1984

Harry Redknapp has since taken teams to Wembley, San Siro and the Santiago Bernabéu, but Dean

Court is where he cut his managerial teeth.

Though Ron Atkinson's United side headed to the south coast as FA Cup holders, they were never at the races against their third division hosts.

Milton Graham put Bournemouth in front on the hour and Ian Thompson added a second minutes later.

### Birmingham 1 Altrincham 2, 1986

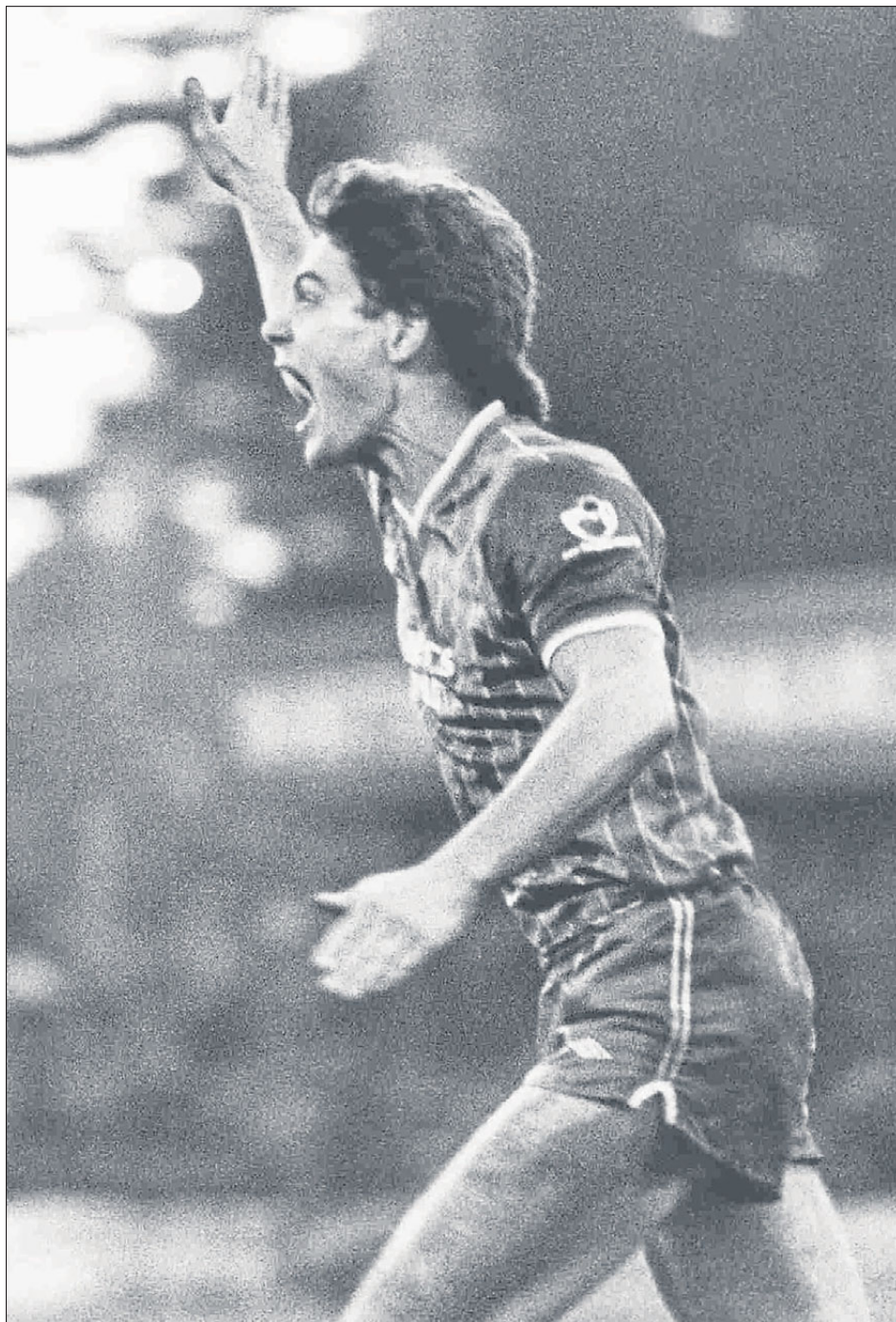
A non league club won at a top flight team, but it was not considered a huge shock at the time.

Though Birmingham were in the old First Division, they entered the game having picked up only two points from their previous 15 league games.

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# r a seismic shock



Ian Thompson races away after scoring Cherries' second goal against Manchester United in 1984.

Altrincham, meanwhile, were a club with a proud reputation as FA Cup giant-killers, and so it proved against Ron Saunders' hosts.

Robert Hopkins gave Birmingham the lead, but Ronnie Ellis levelled soon after.

Hopkins was also the scorer of the game's last goal, putting the ball past his own goalkeeper – none other than future England star Da-

vid Seaman.

**Sutton United 2 Coventry 1, 1989**

Coventry's team contained seven of the players that had won the FA Cup two years earlier and the Sky Blues were sixth in the top-flight when they visited Gander Green Lane.

But Tony Rains gave the then

Conference side a 1-0 lead at half-time. And although David Phillips drew Coventry level after the break, Matt Hanlan scored what proved to be the winner in front of a crowd of 8,000.

**West Bromwich 2 Woking 4, 1991**

Tim Buzaglo shocked then second tier West Bromwich with a stun-

ning second-half hat-trick.

Woking, who trailed 1-0 at the interval, shot back to life as Buzaglo directed in a low shot, then beat two defenders to a flick-on and completed the rout within 15 minutes.

Terry Worsfold added the fourth for the Isthmian League side who were playing four levels below their hosts.

**Wrexham 2 Arsenal 1, Racecourse Ground, 1992**

One of the biggest shocks of the modern era as the defending top flight champions visited the club who had finished 92nd in the Football League the previous season.

Things went according to the script when Alan Smith gave George Graham's side the lead. But ten minutes from time former Manchester United winger Micky Thomas struck a stunning 25-yard free-kick to draw Wrexham level.

Steve Watkin then fired home the winner to send a packed Racecourse Ground wild.

**Birmingham City 1 Kidderminster 2, 1994**

Another embarrassing home loss for the Blues, and this time against a local non league minnow.

Telephone salesman Jon Purdie, who joined Arsenal in the 1980s at the same time as Tony Adams and Paul Merson, struck a second half winner after the Conference leaders had trailed early on.

From an innocuous position outside the area, Purdie struck a 25-yarder that brushed keeper Ian Bennett's fingertips on the way in.

Paul Harding had put Barry Fry's Birmingham, then in the second tier, into a ninth minute lead.

Neil Cartwright headed Kidderminster level before City's Andy Saville whacked a penalty against a post three minutes into the second half.

**Shrewsbury 2 Everton 1, 2003**

A Shrewsbury side 80 places in the league below their visitors, who included a very young Wayne Rooney, pulled off an upset at Gay Meadow.

Former Nottingham Forest striker Nigel Jemson was the hero as his two goals condemned David Moyes' Champions League-chasing side to a humiliating defeat.

Jemson opened the scoring but Niclas Alexandersson looked to have salvaged a replay for Everton.

Jemson, though, had the final say with a dramatic header two minutes from time.

And it was all the sweeter for Shrewsbury because it was masterminded by Goodison Park legend Kevin Radcliffe, the most successful captain in Everton's history.

Rooney had only made his Toffees debut earlier that season, but a month later would be making his senior England debut in a 3-1 home defeat to Australia.

continued on page 32

## Saints' most amazing window ...

● from page 13

Matthew Mills: This was not seen as a good sale for Saints.

On the one hand, you could understand the club wanting to off-load high wage earners like Niemi and Quashie.

On the other, though, it was a worry that Saints were failing to hang onto some of their brighter prospects.

Walcott had obviously been sold prior to centre half Mills joining Manchester City for £250,000.

Mills had only recently made his Championship debut for Saints under Burley, but found the lure of City too much to resist.

City then were nowhere near the powerhouse they are now, but even so Mills struggled to make an impact there.

After just two league outings, he moved onto Doncaster in 2008, followed by a £2m switch to Reading a year later.

Mills has subsequently played for Leicester and Bolton prior to joining Nottingham Forest last summer.

Andrew McNeil: The month ended with Burley allowing a third goalkeeper to leave.

Andrew McNeil had helped Saints reach the previous season's FA Youth



Grzegorz Rasiak was brought in on loan in the January 2006 window. Cup final, for the first (and so far only) time in the club's history.

McNeil returned to his native Scotland to sign for Hibernian, whom he helped win the 2007 Scottish League Cup.

McNeil has remained in Scotland, playing for a variety of clubs, and signed for Alloa last summer.

Phew! Quite a few sales there.

As all those players were heading out the exit door, Burley was also welcoming some new blood.

Right back Alex Ostlund was brought in from Feyenoord for around £400,000, while 18-year-old goalkeeper Bartosz Bialkowski was another permanent addition and former Norwich defender Jim Brennan was signed on a free.

Burley also exploited the loan market, bringing in strikers Peter Madsen (Cologne) and Grzegorz Rasiak (Tottenham) plus midfielders Richard Chaplow (West Brom), Darren Potter (Liverpool) and Jermaine Wright (Leeds).

Come February 15 2006, and all eight of his new signings started in a 0-0 draw against Preston.

In addition, Andrew Surman had only been handed his first competitive Saints start in a 0-0 home draw with Crystal Palace at the end of January.

That game also marked Bialkowski's debut, with Burley having axed Paul Smith after a 2-0 home loss to Ipswich.



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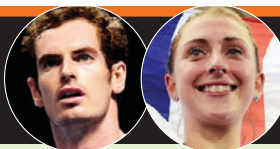
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# SPORTS CALENDAR 2016

## JANUARY

### BASKETBALL

17 Birmingham: BBL Cup final

### CRICKET

2-6 Second Test, Cape Town: South Africa v England  
14-18 Third Test, Johannesburg: South Africa v England  
22-26 Fourth Test, Centurion: South Africa v England

### DARTS

Dec 17-Jan 3 London: PDC World Championship  
2-10 Frimley Green: BDO World Championship

### FOOTBALL

5-6 League Cup semi-final first legs  
8-11 FA Cup third round  
9-10 Scottish Cup fourth round  
12-13 Football League Trophy area final first leg  
26-27 League Cup semi-final second legs  
30-Feb 1 FA Cup fourth round  
30-31 Scottish League Cup semi-finals

### GOLF

7-10 Johannesburg: BMW SA Open  
14-17 Johannesburg: Joburg Open  
15-17 Kuala Lumpur: Eurasia Cup  
21-24 Abu Dhabi: HSBC Golf Championship  
28-31 Doha: Commercial Bank Qatar Masters

### SNOOKER

10-17 London: Dafabet Masters

### RUGBY LEAGUE

30-31 Challenge Cup first round

### RUGBY UNION

14-17 European Rugby Champions Cup matchday five  
14-17 European Rugby Challenge Cup matchday five  
21-24 European Rugby Champions Cup matchday six  
21-24 European Rugby Challenge Cup matchday six

### MOTOR RACING

22-24 Monte Carlo Rally

### RACING

1 Cheltenham: New Year meeting  
23 Ascot: Victor Chandler Chase  
30 Cheltenham: Trials meeting

### TENNIS

18-31 Melbourne: Australian Open

## FEBRUARY

### BASKETBALL

27 Glasgow: BBL Trophy final

### BOXING

27 IBF/WBA world super-bantamweight title,  
Manchester: Carl Frampton v Scott Quigg.

### CRICKET

3 First ODI, Bloemfontein: South Africa v England  
6 Second ODI, Port Elizabeth: South Africa v England  
7 First women's ODI, Benoni: South Africa v England  
9 Third ODI, Centurion: South Africa v England  
12 Fourth ODI, Johannesburg: South Africa v England  
12 Second women's ODI, Centurion: S Africa v England  
14 Fifth ODI, Cape Town: South Africa v England  
14 Third women's ODI, Johannesburg: S Africa v England  
18 First women's T20, Paarl: South Africa v England  
19 First T20, Cape Town: South Africa v England  
19 Second women's T20, Cape Town: S Africa v England  
21 Second T20, Johannesburg: S Africa v England  
21 Third women's T20, Johannesburg: S Africa v England

### FOOTBALL

6-7 Scottish Cup fifth round  
16-17 Champions League round of 16 first legs  
18 Europa League round of 32 first legs  
20-22 FA Cup fifth round  
23-24 Champions League round of 16 first legs  
25 Europa League round of 32 second legs  
28 Wembley: League Cup final

### GOLF

4-7 Dubai: Omega Dubai Desert Classic  
11-14 Waterkloof: Tshwane Open  
18-21 Kuala Lumpur: Maybank Championship  
25-28 Perth: Perth International

### MOTOR CYCLING

28 Phillip Island: Superbike World Championship

### RACING

13 Newbury: Betfair Hurdle  
20 Ascot: Ascot Chase  
27 Kempton: Kempton Park Chase

### RUGBY LEAGUE

4 Start of Super League season  
13-14 Challenge Cup second round  
19 World Challenge Series: St Helens v Sydney  
20 World Challenge Series: Wigan v Brisbane  
21 World Club Challenge: Leeds v North Queensland  
27-28 Challenge Cup third round

### RUGBY UNION

6 Six Nations: France v Italy; Scotland v England  
7 Six Nations: Ireland v Wales  
13 Six Nations: France v Ireland; Wales v Scotland  
14 Six Nations: Italy v England  
26 Six Nations: Wales v France  
27 Six Nations: England v Ireland; Italy v Scotland.

### SNOOKER

15-21 Cardiff: Welsh Open

### TENNIS

15-21 Dubai: Dubai Duty Free Championships (women)  
21-18 Doha: Qatar Open  
22-28 Dubai: Dubai Duty Free Championships (men)

## MARCH

### BADMINTON

8-13 Birmingham: All England Championships

### CRICKET

11-Apr 3 India: ICC World Twenty20

### CYCLING

2-6 London: Track World Championships

### FOOTBALL

5-6 Scottish Cup quarter-finals  
8-9 Champions League round of 16 second legs  
10 Europa League round of 16 first legs  
12-14 FA Cup quarter-finals  
13 Scottish Cup semi-finals

### 15-16 Champions League round of 16 second legs

### 17 Europa League round of 16 second legs

### GOLF

3-6 Florida: WGC-Cadillac Championship  
10-13 Hua Hin: True Thailand Classic  
23-27 Texas: World Golf Championships

### MOTOR CYCLING

13 Thailand: Superbike World Championship  
20 Losail: MotoGP World Championship

### MOTOR RACING

20 Melbourne: Australian Grand Prix

### RACING

12 Sandown: Imperial Cup  
15-18 Cheltenham Festival  
25 Lingfield: AW Championship Finals Day

### RUGBY LEAGUE

18-20 Challenge Cup fourth round

### RUGBY UNION

12 Six Nations: England v Wales; Ireland v Italy  
13 Six Nations: Scotland v France  
19 Six Nations: France v England; Ireland v Scotland;  
Wales v Italy

### TENNIS

4-6 Davis Cup first round: Great Britain v Japan  
9-20 Indian Wells: BNP Paribas Open  
22-Apr 3 Miami Open

## APRIL

### BOXING

20-May 1 Istanbul: Olympic qualifier

### CRICKET

10 First round of County Championship fixtures

### CYCLING

9-10 Manchester: BMX Supercross World Cup  
29-May 1 Tour de Yorkshire

### FOOTBALL

3 Wembley: Football League Trophy final  
5-6 Champions League quarter-final first legs  
7 Europa League quarter-final first legs  
12-13 Champions League quarter-final second legs  
14 Europa League quarter-final second legs  
15 Europa League semi-final draw  
23-24 FA Cup semi-finals  
26-27 Champions League semi-final first legs  
28 Europa League semi-final first legs

### GOLF

7-10 Georgia: The Masters  
14-17 TBC: Spanish Open  
28-May 1 TBC: Volvo China Open

### GYMNASTICS

16-24 Rio: Olympic Test event and qualifiers

### MOTOR CYCLING

3 Aragon: Superbike World Championship  
3 Termas de Rio Hondo: MotoGP World Championship  
10 Austin: MotoGP World Championship  
17 Assen: Superbike World Championship  
24 Jerez: MotoGP World Championship

### MOTOR RACING

3 Bahrain: Bahrain Grand Prix  
17 Shanghai: Chinese Grand Prix

### RACING

2 Doncaster: Lincoln  
7-9 Aintree: Grand National meeting  
16 Ayr: Scottish National  
23 Sandown: Bet365 Gold Cup  
30 Newmarket: 2,000 Guineas

### RUGBY LEAGUE

15-17 Challenge Cup fifth round

### RUGBY UNION

7-10 European Rugby Champions Cup quarter-finals  
7-10 European Rugby Challenge Cup quarter-finals  
22-24 European Rugby Champions Cup semi-finals  
22-24 European Rugby Challenge Cup semi-finals

### SNOOKER

16-May 2 Sheffield: World Championship

### TABLE TENNIS

6-10 Istanbul: European qualification tournament

### TENNIS

11-17 Monte Carlo Masters  
18-24 Barcelona Open  
30-May 8 Madrid Open

## MAY

### ARCHERY

26-29 Nottingham: European Championships

### ATHLETICS

6 Doha: Diamond League meeting  
14 Shanghai: Diamond League meeting  
28 Eugene: Diamond League meeting

### BASKETBALL

8 London: BBL play-off final

### BOXING

19-27 Astana: Women's World Championships

### CANOEING

13-15 Slovakia: European Slalom Championships  
18-19 Duisburg: European Sprint Qualification Event

### CRICKET

19-23 First Test, Headingley: England v Sri Lanka  
27-31 Second Test, Chester-le-Street: England v Sri Lanka

### CYCLING

25-29 Medellin: BMX World Championships

### FOOTBALL

3-4 Champions League semi-final second legs  
5 Europa League semi-final second legs  
7 Final round of Football League fixtures  
7 Scottish League Two play-off final first leg  
11 Scottish Championship play-off final first leg  
11 Scottish League One play-off final first leg.  
12-20 Football League play-offs  
14 Scottish League One play-off final second leg  
14 Wembley: Women's FA Cup final  
15 Final round of Premier League fixtures  
15 Scottish Championship play-off final second leg  
15 Scottish League Two play-off final second leg  
16 Scottish Premiership play-off final first leg  
18 Basle: Europa League final  
21 Wembley: FA Cup final  
21 Glasgow: Scottish Cup final  
22 Wembley: FA Trophy final  
22 Scottish Premiership play-off final second leg  
28 Milan: Champions League final  
28 Wembley: Championship play-off final  
30 Wembley: League Two play-off final  
29 Wembley: League One play-off final

### GOLF

5-8 Rabat: Trophée Hassan II  
12-15 Florida: The Players Championship  
19-22 Co Kildare: Dubai Duty Free Irish Open  
26-29 Virginia Water: BMW PGA Championship

### MODERN PENTATHLON

17-23 Moscow: World Championships

### MOTOR CYCLING

1 Imola: Superbike World Championship  
8 Le Mans: MotoGP World Championship  
15 Sepang: Superbike World Championship  
22 Mugello: MotoGP World Championship  
29 Donington Park: Superbike World Championship

### MOTOR RACING

1 Sochi: Russian Grand Prix  
15 Barcelona: Spanish Grand Prix  
29 Monte Carlo: Monaco Grand Prix

### RACING

1 Newmarket: 1,000 Guineas  
4-6 Chester: May Festival  
7 Ascot: Victoria Cup  
11-13 York: May meeting  
14 Newbury: Lockinge

## FOOTBALL: EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

## 10 JUNE - 10 JULY

### GROUP A

Fri 10 June	France v Romania	Stade de France
Sat 11 June	Albania v Switzerland	Lens
Wed 15 June	Romania v Switzerland	Parc des Princes
Wed 15 June	France v Albania	Marseille
Sun 19 June	Romania v Albania	Lyon
Sun 19 June	Switzerland v France	Lille

### GROUP B

Sat 11 June	Wales v Slovakia	Bordeaux
Sat 11 June	England v Russia	Marseille
Wed 15 June	Russia v Slovakia	Lille
Thurs 16 June	England v Wales	Lens
Mon 20 June	Russia v Wales	Toulouse
Mon 20 June	Slovakia v England	Saint-Etienne

### GROUP C

Sun 12 June	Poland v N.Ireland	Nice
Sun 12 June	Germany v Ukraine	Lille
Thurs 16 June	Ukraine v N.Ireland	Lyon
Thurs 16 June	Germany v Poland	Stade de France
Tues 21 June	Ukraine v Poland	Marseille
Tues 21 June	N.Ireland v Germany	Parc des Princes

### ROUND OF 16

Sat 25 June	1. Runner-up A v Runner-up C	Saint-Etienne
Sat 25 June	2. Winner D v Third B/E/F	Lens
Sat 25 June	3. Winner B v Third A/C/D	Parc des Princes
Sun 26 June	4. Winner F v Runner-up E	Toulouse
Sun 26 June	5. Winner C v Third A/B/F	Lille
Mon 27 June	6. Winner E v Runner-up D	Stade de France
Sun 26 June	7. Winner A v Third C/D/E	Lyon
Mon 27 June	8. Runner-up B v Runner-up F	Nice

### QUARTER-FINALS

Thurs 30 June	QF1. Winner 1 v Winner 2	Marseille
Fri 1 July	QF2. Winner 3 v Winner 4	Lille
Sat 2 July	QF3. Winner 5 v Winner 6	Bordeaux
Sun 3 July	QF4. Winner 7 v Winner 8	Stade de France

### SEMI-FINALS

Wed 6 July	Winner QF1 v Winner QF2	Lyon
Thur 7 July	Winner QF3 v Winner QF4	Marseille

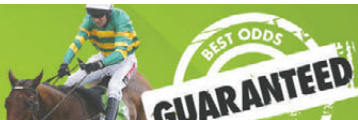
### EURO 2016 FINAL

Sun 10 July		Stade de France
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GROUP D			
Sun 12 June	Turkey v Croatia	Parc des Princes	
Mon 13 June	Spain v Czech Rep	Toulouse	
Fri 17 June	Czech Rep v Croatia	Saint-Etienne	
Fri 17 June	Spain v Turkey	Nice	
Tues 21 June	Czech Rep v Turkey	Lens	
Tues 21 June	Croatia v Spain	Bordeaux	
GROUP E			
Mon 13 June	Rep Ireland v Sweden	Stade de France	
Mon 13 June	Belgium v Italy	Lyon	
Fri 17 June	Italy v Sweden	Toulouse	
Sat 18 June	Belgium v Rep Ireland	Bordeaux	
Wed 22 June	Italy v Rep Ireland	Lille	
Wed 22 June	Sweden v Belgium	Nice	
GROUP F			
Tues 14 June	Austria v Hungary	Bordeaux	
Tues 14 June	Portugal v Iceland	Saint-Etienne	
Sat 18 June	Iceland v Hungary	Marseille	
Sat 18 June	Portugal v Austria	Parc des Princes	
Wed 22 June	Iceland v Austria	Stade de France	
Wed 22 June	Hungary v Portugal	Lyon	



BEST ODDS GUARANTEED



LIVE HORSE RACING





# SPORTS CALENDAR 2016

## RUGBY LEAGUE

- 5-8 Challenge Cup sixth round  
21-22 Newcastle: Super League Magic Weekend

## RUGBY UNION

- 13 Lyon: European Rugby Challenge Cup final  
14 Lyon: European Rugby Champions Cup final  
20-21 Aviva Premiership semi-finals  
21-22 Guinness PRO12 play-offs  
28 Twickenham: Aviva Premiership final  
22-Jun 5 Paris: French Open

## SWIMMING

- 9-22 London: European Championships

## TENNIS

- 9-15 Rome: Internazionali d'Italia  
22-Jun 5 Paris: French Open

## JUNE

## ATHLETICS

- 2 Rome: Diamond League meeting  
5 Birmingham: Diamond League meeting  
9 Oslo: Diamond League meeting  
16 Stockholm: Diamond League meeting  
18 New York: Diamond League meeting

## BOXING

- 7-19 Baku: Olympic qualifiers

## CRICKET

- 5 Royal London One-Day Cup starts  
9-13 Third Test, Lord's: England v Sri Lanka  
16 First ODI, TBC: Ireland v Sri Lanka  
18 Second ODI, TBC: Ireland v Sri Lanka  
20 First women's ODI, Leicester: England v Pakistan  
21 First ODI, Trent Bridge: England v Sri Lanka  
22 Second women's ODI, Worcester: England v Pakistan  
24 Second ODI, Edgbaston: England v Sri Lanka  
26 Third ODI, Bristol: England v Sri Lanka  
27 Third women's ODI, Taunton: England v Pakistan  
29 Fourth ODI, Oval: England v Sri Lanka

## FOOTBALL

- 10-Jul 10 France: Euro 2016

## GOLF

- 2-5 Stockholm: Nordea Masters  
9-12 Atzenbrugg: Lyonesse Open  
16-19 Philadelphia: US Open  
23-26 Pülheim: BMW International Open  
30-Jul 3 Paris: Alstom Open

## HOCKEY

- 18-26 London: Women's Champions Trophy

## MOTOR CYCLING

- 5 Barcelona: MotoGP World Championship  
19 Misano: Superbike World Championship  
26 Assen: MotoGP World Championship

## MOTOR RACING

- 12 Montreal: Canadian Grand Prix  
18-19 Le Mans 24 Hour  
19 Baku: European Grand Prix

## RACING

- 3 Epsom: Oaks  
4 Epsom: Derby  
14-18 Royal Ascot  
25 Newcastle: Northumberland Plate

## RUGBY LEAGUE

- 23-26 Challenge Cup quarter-finals  
29-31 Challenge Cup semi-finals

## TENNIS

- 6-12 Nottingham: Aegon Open (women)  
13-19 London: Queen's  
13-19 Halle: Gerry Weber Open  
13-19 Birmingham: Aegon Classic (women)  
19-25 Nottingham: Aegon Open (men)  
19-25 Eastbourne: Aegon International (women)  
27-Jul 10 London: Wimbledon

## TRIATHLON

- 11-12 Leeds: ITU World Triathlon Series

## JULY

## ATHLETICS

- 15 Monaco: Diamond League meeting  
22-23 London: Diamond League meeting

## CRICKET

- 2 Fifth ODI, Cardiff: England v Sri Lanka  
3 First women's T20, Bristol: England v Pakistan  
5 T20, Southampton: England v Sri Lanka

## OLYMPIC GAMES 2016

- Opening ceremony.....Aug 5  
Archery.....Aug 6-12  
Athletics.....Aug 12-21  
Badminton.....Aug 11-20  
Basketball.....Aug 6-21  
Boxing.....Aug 6-21  
Canoe slalom.....Aug 7-11  
Canoe sprint.....Aug 15-20  
Cycling - road.....Aug 6-7, 10  
Cycling - track.....Aug 11-16  
Cycling - BMX.....Aug 17-19  
Cycling - mountain bike.....Aug 20-21  
Diving.....Aug 7-10, 12-20  
Equestrian.....Aug 6-12, 14-17, 19  
Fencing.....Aug 6-14  
Field hockey.....Aug 6-19  
Football.....Aug 3-4, 6-20  
Golf.....Aug 11-14, 17-20  
Gymnastics - artistic.....Aug 6-11, 14-17  
Gymnastics - rhythmic.....Aug 19-21



- 5 2nd women's T20, Southampton: England v Pakistan  
7 3rd women's T20, Chelmsford: England v Pakistan  
14-18 First Test, Lord's: England v Pakistan  
22-26 Second Test, Manchester: England v Pakistan

## CYCLING

- 2-24 Tour de France

## GOLF

- 7-10 Inverness: Scottish Open  
14-17 Troon: The Open  
28-31 Milton Keynes: Women's British Open  
28-31 New Jersey: PGA Championship

## MOTOR CYCLING

- 10 Laguna Seca: Superbike World Championship  
17 Chemnitz: MotoGP World Championship  
24 Monza: Superbike World Championship

## MOTOR RACING

- 3 Spielberg: Austrian Grand Prix  
10 Silverstone: British Grand Prix  
24 Budapest: Hungarian Grand Prix  
31 Hockenheim: German Grand Prix

## RACING

- 2 Sandown: Eclipse  
7-9 Newmarket: July meeting  
9 York: John Smith's Cup  
23 Ascot: King George meeting  
26-30 Glorious Goodwood

## TENNIS

- 15-17 Davis Cup quarter-finals  
25-31 Toronto: Rogers Cup (men)  
25-31 Montreal: Rogers Cup (women)



## WORLD TWENTY20, INDIA MARCH 11-APRIL 3

## AUGUST

## ATHLETICS

- 25 Lausanne: Diamond League meeting  
27 Paris: Diamond League meeting

## CRICKET

- 3-7 Third Test, Edgbaston: England v Pakistan  
11-15 Fourth Test, Oval: England v Pakistan  
18 First ODI, TBC: Ireland v Pakistan  
20 Edgbaston: T20 Blast finals day  
20 Second ODI, TBC: Ireland v Pakistan  
24 First ODI, Southampton: England v Pakistan  
27 Second ODI, Lord's: England v Pakistan  
30 Third ODI, Trent Bridge: England v Pakistan

## GOLF

- 4-7 Aberdeen: Paul Lawrie Match Play  
18-21 Prague: Czech Masters  
25-28 Farsø: Made in Denmark

## OLYMPICS

- 5-21 Rio de Janeiro: 31st Olympic Games

## MOTOR CYCLING

- 14 Mugello: MotoGP World Championship  
14 Spielberg: MotoGP World Championship  
21 Brno: MotoGP World Championship

## MOTOR RACING

- 28 Spa: Belgian Grand Prix

## RACING

- 17-20 York: Ebor meeting

## RUGBY UNION

- 20 Rugby Championship: Australia v New Zealand  
20 Rugby Championship: South Africa v Argentina  
27 Rugby Championship: Argentina v South Africa  
27 Rugby Championship: New Zealand v Australia

## TENNIS

- 15-21 Cincinnati: Western & Southern Open  
29-Sep 11 New York: US Open

## SEPTEMBER

## ATHLETICS

- 1 Zurich: Diamond League meeting  
9 Brussels: Diamond League meeting

## CRICKET

- 1 Fourth ODI, Headingley: England v Pakistan  
4 Fifth ODI, Cardiff: England v Pakistan  
7 T20, Manchester: England v Pakistan  
17 Lord's: Royal London One-Day Cup final  
25 ODI, Benoni: South Africa v Ireland  
27 ODI: Australia v Ireland

## GOLF

- 1-4 Crans Montana: European Masters  
8-11 Spijk: KLM Open  
15-18 Monza: Italian Open  
15-18 Evian Les Bains: Evian Championship  
22-25 Georgia: Tour Championship  
22-25 Rad Griesbach: European Open  
30-Oct 2 Minnesota: Ryder Cup

## MOTOR CYCLING

- 4 Silverstone: MotoGP World Championship  
11 Misano: MotoGP World Championship

## RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 5-21

- Gymnastics - trampolining.....Aug 12-13  
Handball.....Aug 6-21  
Judo.....Aug 6-12  
Modern pentathlon.....Aug 18-20  
Rowing.....Aug 6-13  
Rugby sevens.....Aug 6-11  
Sailing.....Aug 8-18  
Shooting.....Aug 6-14  
Swimming.....Aug 6-13, 15-16  
Synchronised swimming.....Aug 14-16, 18-19  
Table tennis.....Aug 6-17  
Taekwondo.....Aug 17-20  
Tennis.....Aug 6-14  
Triathlon.....Aug 18, 20  
Volleyball - beach.....Aug 6-18  
Volleyball - indoor.....Aug 6-21  
Water polo.....Aug 6, 8-20  
Weightlifting.....Aug 6-10, 12-16  
Wrestling.....Aug 14-21  
Closing ceremony.....Aug 21



## RIO PARALYMPICS SEPTEMBER 7-18

- 18 Klettwitz: Superbike World Championship  
25 Aragon: MotoGP World Championship

## MOTOR RACING

- 4 Monza: Italian Grand Prix  
18 Singapore: Singapore Grand Prix

## PARALYMPICS

- 7-18 Rio de Janeiro: Paralympic Games

## RACING

- 3 Haydock: Sprint Cup  
7-10 Doncaster: St Leger meeting  
17 Ayr: Gold Cup  
22-24 Newmarket: Cambridgeshire meeting

## RUGBY UNION

- 10 Rugby Championship: Australia v South Africa  
10 Rugby Championship: New Zealand v Argentina  
17 Rugby Championship: Australia v Argentina  
17 Rugby Championship: New Zealand v South Africa

## TENNIS

- 16-18 Davis Cup semi-finals  
26-Oct 2 Wuhan Open

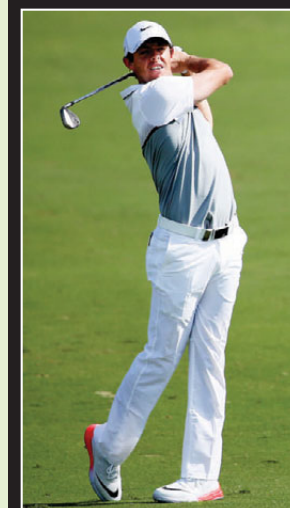
## OCTOBER

## GOLF

- 6-9 Scotland: Alfred Dunhill Links Championship  
13-16 Watford: British Masters  
20-23 Vilamoura: Portugal Masters  
27-30 China: WGC-HSBC Champions

## MOTOR CYCLING

- 2 Magny-Cours: Superbike World Championship



## RYDER CUP, HAZELTINE SEPT 30-OCTOBER 2

- 16 Jerez: Superbike World Championship  
16 Motegi: MotoGP World Championship  
23 Phillip Island: MotoGP World Championship  
30 Losail: Superbike World Championship  
30 Sepang: MotoGP World Championship

## MOTOR RACING

- 2 Sepang: Malaysian Grand Prix  
9 Suzuka: Japanese Grand Prix  
23 Austin: United States Grand Prix  
30 Mexico City: Mexican Grand Prix

## RACING

- 7 Newmarket: Future Champions Day  
15 Ascot: British Champions Day  
22 Doncaster: Racing Post Trophy

## RUGBY LEAGUE

- 8 Manchester: Super League Grand Final

## RUGBY UNION

- 1 Rugby Championship: Argentina v New Zealand  
1 Rugby Championship: South Africa v Australia  
8 Rugby Championship: Argentina v Australia  
8 Rugby Championship: South Africa v New Zealand

## TENNIS

- 1-9 Beijing: China Open  
3-9 Tokyo: Japan Open  
10-16 Shanghai Masters  
23-30 Singapore: WTA finals  
24-30 Basle: Swiss Indoors  
31-Nov 6 Paris: BNP Paribas Masters

## NOVEMBER

## GOLF

- 3-6 Antalya: Turkish Airlines Open  
3-6 TBC: Toto Japan Classic  
10-13 Sun City: Nedbank Challenge  
17-20 Dubai: World Tour Championship  
17-20 Florida: Tour Championship

## MOTOR RACING

- 13 Sao Paulo: Brazilian Grand Prix  
27 Yas Marina: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

## MOTOR CYCLING

- 13 Valencia: MotoGP World Championship

## RACING

- 5 Doncaster: November Handicap  
11-13 Cheltenham: Open meeting  
19 Haydock: Belfair Chase  
26 Newbury: Hennessy Gold Cup  
26 Newcastle: Fighting Fifth Hurdle

## TENNIS

- 12-13 Fed Cup final  
13-20 London: ATP finals  
25-27 Davis Cup final

## DECEMBER

## RACING

- 3 Sandown: Tingle Creek Chase  
9-10 Cheltenham: International meeting  
17 Ascot: Long Walk Hurdle  
26 Kempton: King George VI Chase  
27 Chepstow: Welsh National





SOUTHERN  
**Daily Echo**

# FIND THE BALL



## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

# £17,000

or £1,000 nearest miss prize...

**PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week**

**20 for Southern Daily Echo  
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth  
10 for Dorset Echo  
10 for Sunday Independent  
10 for Brighton Argus**

**F**IND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echo, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be—clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the

competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

### RESULTS

#### CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES

Thursday 9am, 7 January 2016  
Name of winners will be published  
on Saturday, 9 January or  
Sunday 10 January 2016

### Winners

Competition number S48

This is a repeat competition  
from 19 December 2015 and  
will appear again  
2 January 2016 due to  
the holiday postal  
service

### Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 450 per coupon. Coupons with 451 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. 2. Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. 3. No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. 4. Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'X' Co. Stamps will not be accepted in payment. 5. A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. 6. The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. 7. Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. 8. Address entries to FTB, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton, SO16 9JX in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. 9. Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. 10. Do not send cash in the post. 11. Winners will be required to participate in publicity. 12. Photocopies not accepted. 13. For rules go to [www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules). 14. If you pay by cheque your prize money will be paid to you once cheque has cleared.

An incident in an Eastleigh v Lincoln match

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE ONLY



Please use black/blue ink and capitals

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On what day(s) do you purchase the Daily Echo?

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☐ YES ☐ NO

19 December 2015/  
2 January 2016

Please cross box

60 CROSSES £1

125 CROSSES £2

200 CROSSES £3

325 CROSSES £4

450 CROSSES £5

### SAVE POSTAGE

For your convenience coupons may be posted in our **FIND THE BALL** collecting boxes located at selected newsagents and all branch offices

Deadlines for branch office collection boxes are as follows:  
Bournemouth Echo 12 noon Tuesday  
Southern Daily Echo 12 noon Tuesday  
Dorset Echo 12 noon Tuesday  
Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:  
Bournemouth Echo closing time Monday  
Southern Daily Echo 10.00 am Tuesday  
Dorset Echo closing time Monday

A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echoes on the first Saturday of each month

### CASH PRIZE EVERY WEEK

Please complete entry form and send to:  
**FTB Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton SO16 9JX**  
Cheques payable to newsquest

**Daily Echo**



# Cellino right to take a stance over television

**SAY what you like about him, Leeds United president Massimo Cellino is certainly a colourful character.**

A journalist's dream, in many ways, writes **SIMON CARTER**.

There is rarely a dull moment when he is around.

During his 22 years as owner of Italian club Cagliari, Cellino went through 36 different managers.

Thirty six. And some Saints fans probably thought ex-chairman Rupert Lowe was too quick to hire and fire his managers!

No wonder Cellino was given the nickname Il mangia-allenatori - 'The Manager Eater'.

With that sort of background, Leeds fans would have expected a rollercoaster ride when Cellino took over their club in early 2014.

He has not disappointed.

In a short space of time, he has gone through five managers and Steve Evans is now his sixth.

Former Saints coach Dave Hockaday was a surprise choice in 2014, but only lasted six games before being sacked.

In came Slovenian Darko Milanic, who also lasted six games.

Ex-Saints striker Uwe Rosler was appointed to the hottest of English football hot-seats in 2015, and lasted longer than Hockaday and Milanic. That is not saying much, though, and indeed he was gone after just 12 matches.

In other headline-making events, last October he said he would be capping Leeds' well-known large travelling support at 2,000.

He eventually relented after fan dissent.

Cellino is currently waiting for the League to let him know when his appeal against their disqualification of him will be heard.

The League banned him for a second time in October for failing its Owners' and Director's test after a tax evasion conviction, although his appeal means he can maintain his influence at the club at present.

This week, even by his high standards, he almost surpassed himself.

Cellino said he is "trying to protect the club" after he nearly went ahead with a television blackout of Tuesday's clash at home to Derby.

The Italian was annoyed by another of his side's matches being selected for live coverage and the 59-year-old instructed club staff to deny Sky Sports' production crew entry to Elland Road ahead of the game.

Access was first denied on Monday - as would be customary 24 hours ahead of a live match - and the doors remained locked throughout Tuesday, with Football League chief executive Shaun Harvey being deployed to negotiate with the club.

Shortly before 3pm Cellino - at his family home in Miami and not in Yorkshire - relaxed his position and let Sky in, but he issued a defence of his actions.

"I'm trying to protect the club," he said.

"I have beautiful people working with me now and beautiful players - not overpaid as before.

"I have to do my job in looking after the club because nobody did it before."

Cellino is obviously not the sort of owner most sensible football fans would



**Leeds president Massimo Cellino is a colourful character.**

welcome with open arms to their club, but in this instance he was right to make a stance.

For too long now, supporters have been mainly ignored when it comes to scheduling games for live television coverage. A good recent example was Saints' home game against Arsenal on Boxing Day. Due to live Sky coverage, it was shifted to a 7.45pm kick off - angering fans from both clubs.

Back in August, Everton fans had to make an early trek to St Mary's for a 12.45pm kick off for a game shown live on BT Sport.

Chelsea had to go to E verton, Tottenham to Manchester United and Manchester City to Tottenham for other 12.45pm kick offs.

Bournemouth's trip to Anfield back in August was also moved to a Monday slot. In the Premier League, supporters have got used to these sort of early starts.

It goes with the territory, and the clubs are very well rewarded.

Saints and the other 19 top flight clubs banked just over £52m last season EACH, as part of the Sky deal.

Down at Championship level, Leeds and their divisional rivals collected £2.3m each.

Last Tuesday's game against Derby was, amazingly, Leeds' TENTH live Sky

game of the season. They have appeared live on the network more times than Saints in 2015/16.

Sky's contract with the Football League allows them to show 127 live games this season from the three divisions.

Obviously, the vast majority of those games will be Championship games.

There are some big names in the second tier, clubs with proud top flight backgrounds - Nottingham Forest, Wolves, Fulham, Middlesbrough, Derby.

Few are bigger than Leeds, though, which is why Sky have been so keen to show them.

Geographically, there are some tasty Yorkshire derbies on the fixture list - Sheffield Wednesday and Huddersfield, while Burnley and Blackburn offer tasty 'Roses' derbies too.

Leeds are a victim of circumstances, therefore.

But Cellino, though some fans might well agree with him, is fighting a losing battle if he continues to wage a war against television.

If the companies are paying such massive sums of money to cover the matches, of course they are going to dictate when those games are played.

That's just common-sense.

And what's the alternative?

I wrote in the Sports Pink a few weeks ago about how in 1985/86 only THIRTEEN live Football League and FA Cup ties were shown live on television all season.

There was no televised football in the first half of that season at all - not even highlights.

I would have laughed out loud if you had told me back in the dark days of 1985/86 that my club, Exeter City, would one day have a fourth division game beamed live to the nation.

Ok, only to those who possess a satellite dish and who continue to fund Rupert Murdoch's cash cow.

But it came true. Back in October, Exeter v Stevenage was live on Sky. And other fourth tier games have been screened live this season too.

That is great for football, of course it is.

You could argue there is too much televised football these days, and you would probably be right.

After all, neither Exeter or Stevenage are that well supported. How many neutrals would have tuned in to watch it on a Sunday lunchtime?

But Sky don't appear concerned.

And why should they?

They seem happy enough delivering obscene wealth to the chosen few in the Premier League, don't they?

The bubble does not appear to be anywhere close to bursting, does it?

Indeed, this season's Premier League is the most fascinating for many a year.

Probably the most fascinating of all time.

Perhaps all this obscene wealth has created a more level playing field?

If it has, good. About time.

The Championship title race appears wide open as well, and that's good news for Sky too.

Leeds are unlikely to play any part in it, though. So as the season progresses to its business end, expected to see them appear on the Sky screens less and less.

Cellino probably won't be too happy with that scenario either.

But then there is no pleasing some people...

## Racing week ahead ...

**Monday:** It is a Bank Holiday in Scotland in lieu of January 2 falling on a Saturday this year, so Musselburgh will surely attract a decent crowd to what is a useful card.

**Tuesday:** Bangor hosts the jumping action with a clutch of decent events, including the Bangor Novices' Handicap Chase and the bangorBET Handicap Hurdle.

**Wednesday:** Jumps fans may be a little disappointed with only Huntingdon to look forward to, but Chelmsford, Kempton and Wolverhampton all race on the all-weather.

**Thursday:** It is all about Dubai as the World Cup Carnival opens at Meydan. The 11-meeting event offers around \$40million in prize money, culminating in the World

Cup itself on March 26. Round One of the Al Maktoum Challenge is the key contest on the opening card.

**Friday:** Yorkshire-based fans will be spoilt for choice as both Doncaster and Wetherby are in action, with the first-named track having switched its meeting from Saturday to accommodate the rescheduled Welsh National.

**Saturday:** Chepstow is the place to be with the rearranged Coral Welsh National the headline event, with Emperor's Choice and Mountainous, the last two winners, in the hunt for a repeat.

**Sunday:** Fairyhouse takes centre stage with the Dan Moore Memorial Handicap Chase, won by Mallowney last year, the pick of their card.



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# Where there's a Will, there's a way...

## Make a Will Fortnight

11 – 22 Jan 2016

Photograph courtesy of BIB Productions LTD & Matt Austin

Hello, I'm Simon Weston. In 1982 I was aboard the Sir Galahad when it was destroyed at Bluff Cove in the Falkland Islands.

I suffered 46% burns to my body and went on to have numerous operations. However, I was one of the lucky ones. I survived.

I certainly wasn't expecting such a life-changing event to happen to me, but did you know that **83%\*** of all disabilities are acquired during life, and just **17%** are present at birth?

It is now my privilege to work with charities like Enham Trust, who do so much to help a diverse range of disabled people all over the UK. People who continue to show great determination in pursuing life on their own terms - a life of independence.

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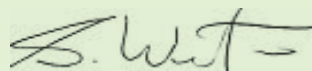
So I'd like to tell you about a way that you can give the gift of independence and look after the future of your family as well...

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It's a 'win-win' offer that only runs from 11th - 22nd January 2016, so to find out more (and for full terms and conditions) please take a look at the list of participating solicitors at [www.enhamtrust.org.uk/makeawill](http://www.enhamtrust.org.uk/makeawill)

As the headline says, where there's a Will, there's a way.

Thank you



Simon Weston OBE

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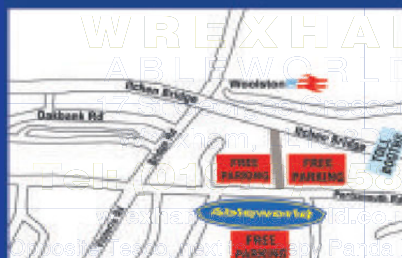


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## Non league FOOTBALL



# Claridge's new-look Whites first to break century mark

... and Salisbury are rewarded with big crowds

**THE Sydenhams Wessex League has never seen anything like it.**

Crowd-pullers extraordinaire Salisbury attracted a bumper turnout of 1,485 to the Raymond McEnhill Stadium for Monday's 3-1 Wiltshire derby win over Bemerton Heath Harlequins, *writes Wendy Gee*.

"We're getting gates here equal to what they (the old Salisbury City club) were getting there in the Conference," said manager Steve Claridge.

"Five hundred people turned up for a Wiltshire Senior Cup game here (against Laverstock & Ford) just before Christmas, so we're doing something right.

"We've got a brilliant, brilliant group of lads here and we're giving people what they want.

"We're the first team to break 100 goals at our level and above in the country. That says something, doesn't it, about what we are capable of?"

"I'm the luckiest manager in the country because I've got together a team in three months that are magnificent."

### Lively

Ex-Eastleigh and Winchester City striker Sam Wilson struck twice against the Harlequins as Claridge's Whites edged back to the top of the table on goal difference from Horn-dean.

Dan Demkiv hit the Bemerton woodwork after just 26 seconds, but it was another half-hour before the Whites went ahead when Calum Brockway got the final touch on Kane O'Keefe's header from a corner.

Wilson made it 2-0 from the spot shortly before the break following a foul on lively ex-Saints youngster Demkiv, who turned 19 on Boxing Day, and then struck again with a 25-yard cracker with 51 minutes on the clock.

Sam Griffin pulled one back for Graham Kemp's Bemerton late on.

Salisbury now face a big week ahead with Tuesday's trip to Sydenhams Premier title rivals Horn-dean followed by their big FA Vase last-32 clash at AFC Dunstable on Sunday, January 10 (3pm).

The Whites have already done some homework on their Spartan South Midlands League opponents and, when director of football Mick Jenkins perused their player profiles, he saw some familiar names listed.

"They've got a few ex-Havant & Waterlooville players up there," said Jenkins, a former boss at Westleigh Park.

"Lads like Leon Cashman, who's a



Salisbury captain Kayne O'Keefe (with armband) and Calum Brockway rise for Salisbury's opener against Bemerton.



Sam Wilson celebrates his goal against Bemerton with Danny Young.

real decent player.

"He's 6ft 3in with a good left foot and he's got great mobility and energy.

"They look a decent side, but we'll have them watched as we always do and we'll be fully prepared."

Dunstable's main attacking threat is 6ft 2in top scorer BJ Christie, who netted 28 goals last term and has al-

ready gone one better this season in 29 appearances.

The centre forward/left-sided attacker is quick too, having clocked sub-11 seconds over 100 metres.

Dunstable boss Steve Heath can't wait to go head to head with former Portsmouth player Claridge.

"Apart from Hereford, Salisbury is the next toughest team we could have

drawn, although one good thing is we have been drawn at home," he said.

"It should be a fantastic game between two teams in good form.

"These are the sort of games you look forward to as a manager as it pits your wits against the best.

"Looking at their attendances, we should draw a bumper crowd to Creasey Park."

## Dorchester sign Clarke

**FORMER** Blackfield & Langley defender/midfielder Franklyn Clarke has joined Dorchester Town on non-contract terms.

The Liverpool-born player has spent the first half of this season with Wimborne Town in the Southern One South & West while also studying sports psychology and coaching at Bournemouth University.

The 6ft 2in, 22-year-old was previously with Blackfield under John Robson's tenure and had long been on the radar of Dorchester boss Mark Jermyn.

An energetic, physical player with a strong work ethic, the versatile Clarke is equally adept playing as a target man as he is in the engine room or at the back.

He made an instant impact for his new club, springing off the bench to grab a dramatic, injury-time equaliser against neighbours Weymouth in a 2-2 festive draw at the Bob Lucas Stadium.

His exuberant celebrations may have earned him a booking, but it was a small price to pay for such an important and spectacular left-foot strike.

### Ugly things

"I just wanted to come on and play a part, but for it to go the way it did was great. I couldn't have written it any better," he smiled.

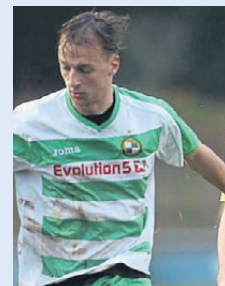
"The ball just dropped to me and I only had one thing in mind. I haven't hit one better with my left foot.

"I was falling over when I hit it, but I could see the keeper stretching for it and then the ball going into the top corner."

Discussing his new recruit, Jermyn said: "Frankie is technically good, but we also wanted someone who can break up play and do the ugly things.

"He is a very energetic player and has a few goals to his name this season.

"If I'm honest, I had only seen him playing once or twice but I had spoken to a few people and they all came back saying the same thing about him."



Franklyn Clarke



## Non league FOOTBALL



### Arnold keen to return to management with 'right club' after break



ADIE Arnold is keen on a return to management, but insists it must be with "the right club".

Arnold, left, has been out of work since September following 16 tumultuous months in charge of Christchurch.

Priory were relegated from the

Sydenhams Premier last season and Arnold was axed just seven matches into the current campaign.

He had previously enjoyed an eight-and-a-half year stint at Verwood.

He has not applied for a role in

football since his Hurn Bridge exit, but said: "If something becomes available and it's the right club with a bit of ambition, it would appeal to me. I will keep my options open. I wouldn't mind getting involved as a manager or as an assistant."

"I have a lot of experience and contacts and if I can benefit a club or another manager who wanted a hand, I would look at every option."

"Hopefully, I will be judged on my eight years at Verwood rather than my 16 months at Christchurch."

# Salisbury opportunity was too good a chance to pass up - Mick

Jenkins was not looking for such a quick comeback

**MICK Jenkins wasn't overly fussed about making a quick return to football when he parted company with AFC Portchester at the end of last season.**

The former Portsmouth trainee and Waterloo defender needed keyhole surgery on a knee that had taken a battering during his playing days, his mum was unwell and he wasn't seeing enough of his young family, writes Wendy Gee.

But when a call came in from his old mucker Steve Claridge who was looking to get a new Salisbury club up and running in the Sydenhams Wessex League, it was too good an opportunity to pass up.

Over the years, Claridge has become a well-known face in English football from his socks-rolled-down playing exploits with the likes of Birmingham, Leicester, Portsmouth and Millwall to his regular small screen appearances as a pundit on the BBC.

But his friendship with Jenkins transcends all that, having spent their early days together in the more humble surroundings of Fareham Town.

"I've known Steve since our playing days together as youngsters at Fareham in the mid-80s when Richie Reynolds was manager," Jenkins recalled.

"Since then Steve's seen it all in the pro game with the all the cups and medals he's won."

"We later worked at Weymouth together and brought them up from nothing, so the chance to work with Steve again - plus Ian Ridley (ex-Weymouth chairman and current Salisbury vice-chairman) - was too good to turn down."

While Claridge arrived at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium steeped with knowledge of the professional game, he was going to need more local connections to get Salisbury off the ground in the Wessex League.

And in 52-year-old Jenkins, former manager of Havant & Waterlooville, Bognor Regis and Dorchester Town, he has found an ideal director of football - a man with a keen eye for local talent and a chock-a-block contacts book to match.

Five months later Salisbury are sitting aloft the Sydenhams Premier Division and through to the last 32 of the FA Vase - not bad for a side built from a standing start in the



Steve Claridge, left, with former Fareham mate Mick Jenkins.

summer and which, contrary to common belief, is not packed with big-named high earners.

"We've assembled a good group of players and built a team pretty much from nothing to get where we are," said Jenkins.

"We're not full of big names and we've put this squad together on sensible money."

"I'm always out watching games and I had a little book of players I admired."

"Steve's given me a free rein and it's been fantastic."

"There's still a long way to go and we haven't achieved anything yet, but we're making progress."

With a famous name like Claridge at the helm and bold ambitions to climb the football pyramid, Salisbury have inevitably been lumbered with the 'big spenders' tag.

But Jenkins said: "Everyone is quick to point the finger saying Salisbury are this, Salisbury are that and they've got the biggest budget, but they don't know the facts."

"We're not peering over the fence watching what everyone else is doing, even though everyone's peering over our fence. We're just getting on with our own business."

"Don't get me wrong, our budget is competitive, but it's on a par with some of the other clubs in this league."

"We've got a spine of players like Gareth Barfoot, Callum Hart, Stephen Walker, Robbie Matthews and Ashley Jarvis who are well versed at this level and above."

"But we've also got players like Kane O'Keefe who's come up from Sydenhams One. We've worked and worked with him and he's been a pillar of strength."

"I've always taken great interest in the lower leagues where there are hungry players with a bit of ambition who are not just playing for the money."

"Players like TJ Cuthbertson, Lee Wort and Mike Carter have gone in at Gosport Borough and proved they can play at that level (National League South)."

"We've got three or four, maybe even half a dozen, like that at Salisbury and I know for a fact there are players at Portchester who could play higher all day long but, for some reason, managers don't seem to want to take a chance on them."

Asked what Claridge makes of the Sydenhams League after a lifetime at a higher level, Jenkins said: "It's football and, at the end of the day, you've got to be as organised and professional as you can in any league you enter."

"If you work hard and are organised, you've always got half a chance."

#### Testament

"We pride ourselves on that and it's pleasing to see it from the players."

"We didn't get off to the best of starts, drawing at Brockenhurst and losing to Whitchurch, but to be where we are within four or five months of the club forming is a credit to us all."

"We've scored over 100 goals already in all competitions and conceded only nine in the league, which is testament to our defence and the experience of Gareth Barfoot in goal."

"If you look at our recent results we've scored a lot of fives and sixes."



## Non league FOOTBALL



# Fareham could switch to 3G after huge pitch problems

Wessex League club want to build a new stand too

**WATERLOGGED** Wessex League outfit Fareham Town could be playing on a 3G artificial surface in two seasons' time – if an ambitious plan to totally revamp the Cams Alders sports complex gets the green light.

When their offices reopen for business on Monday, Fareham Borough Council (FBC) officials will begin to analyse the findings of their pre-Christmas public consultation exercise on their 'vision' to provide new and improved community and recreation facilities on the existing Cams Alders site.

That effectively means the total redevelopment of what the council itself describes as a "tired and dated" stadium, built in the mid-1970s.

Off-field, FBC proposes to bulldoze the 40-year old grandstand and clubhouse – and replace it with a 500-seater structure with social facilities, writes Mike Vimpany.

They envisage the 3G artificial enclosed pitch being the new 'home' of both Fareham Town and Fareham Heathens Rugby Club, who would share the facility.

It is believed a sizeable chunk of the funding of the project – which incorporates training pitches – would come from Football Association and Rugby Football Union grants.

### Embryonic

The provision of improved access, car parking and the creation of an inclusive children's play area are also included in the scheme.

Executive member for leisure and community at Fareham Borough Council Cllr Sue Bell said: "We are committed to creating a public space which everyone in the community can enjoy."

Although the project is very much at an embryonic stage and ample discussions will doubtless take place with all parties once the findings of the consultation exercise have been made public in the summer, the scheme is a potential lifesaver for Fareham Town.

It is two months and more since they last played at Cams Alders.

Eight successive Sydenhams Wessex League and cup matches have been postponed since Newport's 1-0 win there in late October.

After a relatively rain-free Christmas, Fareham had hoped the eagerly awaited Creekside derby with AFC Portchester would go ahead on Tuesday evening.

But an untimely lunchtime downpour waterlogged the pitch once



An artist's impression of the proposed new grandstand at Cams Alders.



Fareham's grandstand which has seen better days.

again, leaving manager Steve Stone and his players frustrated – and secretary Paul Proctor agonising over an ever-growing fixture backlog of potentially horrendous proportions.

The postponement of the Portchester game really was an ill-timed kick in the teeth for Fareham, who were just about keeping their heads above water financially, despite playing little football.

"The annoying thing was that no heavy rain was forecast, but right on cue when the referee turned up to inspect the pitch it poured down again, leaving the surface saturated and once again unplayable," Proctor fumed.

"We've lost money on programmes we'd printed and for food which we immediately had to discard.

"But there's little more we can do

than pray for at least a week of dry weather – and give us a chance of playing some home games."

Drainage problems at Cams Alders are historical and well chronicled.

Fareham Town moved there in 1976 – ironically from the well-drained Bath Lane, which boasted one of the best playing surfaces around – and have been dogged by drainage problems virtually ever since.

"The pitch has a clay base, so the water table fills very quickly once it rains and water just sits on the surface, taking longer than normal to drain away," Proctor explained.

### Blocked

"We regularly Verti-Drain the pitch during the summer and check the drainage isn't blocked throughout."

It is currently particularly bad at

the near dressing rooms end of the pitch, where the water lies above grass level.

Fareham Town reckon it would cost £50,000 to provide a new drainage system – work they insist will have to be put in place for the artificial surface community proposal to be a success.

The project now on the table at least gives Fareham Town a ray of light at the end of a dark and very soggy tunnel.

If the scheme gets the go-ahead, they will need to ground share with another local club – but that's the least of their worries at the moment.

What Fareham Town need is some dry weather and the chance to host Poppies at Cams Alders on Tuesday evening – some 11 weeks after their last home game against Newport!

## Ollie tips Portland

CHRISTCHURCH boss Ollie Cherrett is backing Portland United to stay the course in the Sydenhams One title race.

Priory are bidding to bounce straight back up to the Premier Division after relegation last term, but Cherrett believes they will be fighting for second place behind Gary Bailey's Portland who have made a huge impression in their first season back from the Dorset Premier League.

"We are never going to give up on winning the league until it is mathematically impossible, but sometimes you have to be realistic," he said.

"People laughed when I said Portland would go up again because they thought they would need a year or two to get used to it.

"They have good players and a good manager and I would expect them to go on to win the league reasonably comfortably.

"We are one of four or five teams competing really hard to get second spot."

The gap between Portland and Christchurch widened on Tuesday as the league leaders snuck past Ringwood 1-0 at Grove Corner, while Priory were defeated 3-1 at New Milton Town.

Dom Falco, Shane Sheridan and ex-Totton man Jack Hoey struck for New Milton with Mark Smith bagging Christchurch's sole reply.

Portland, getting their first taste of football since December 1, overcame some awful, windy weather and a stubborn Ringwood side to get their title charge up and running again thanks to a 15th-minute Alex Godfrey strike.

"We were a little bit ring rusty but that was to be expected," said manager Bailey. "The conditions were tough for both sides, but it was a case of digging in.

"A lot of credit has to go to Ringwood because they defended manfully against the wind in the second half. Their 'keeper was man of the match for them."



Alex Godfrey



# Non league FOOTBALL



The FA Vase

## Three Sydenhams Wessex sides in FA Vase last 32

THE Sydenhams Wessex League have three teams through to the last 32 of the FA Vase.

Moneyfields join Salisbury and Newport IoW in the fourth round after beating Brimscombe & Thrupp 2-0 in their midweek third round replay.

An early goal by Dan Gauntlett and a late one from substitute Jamie Hore ensured Dave Carter's Moneys – who travelled to Gloucestershire with just 12 players – reached the

fourth round for the first time in their history.

Brimscombe ended the game with nine men – goalkeeper Steve Sparrow was sent off on 55 minutes for a professional foul before Sam Blackie was red-carded with around 10 minutes to go.

### Good value

Several of Moneyfields' regular players did not make the trip, but proud boss Carter said: "The players

who did show up gave everything. They put their bodies on the line and we were good value for our win."

Moneys will be at home to Western Premier League leaders Bristol Manor Farm next Saturday, while Newport host Ashford United of the Southern Counties East.

Steve Claridge's Salisbury – 4/1 second favourites behind Hereford (2/1) to lift the Vase according to Bet Victor – play at AFC Dunstable on Sunday, January 10.

## Star man Williams

FORMER Folland Sports wideman Rory Williams set up both goals as Gosport Borough earned the Boxing Day bragging rights over struggling neighbours Havant & Waterlooville.

Williams was plucked out of the Sydenhams Wessex League by Gosport boss Alex Pike in January 2013, initially as a left winger and later as a striker.

He is now making a name for himself in a full-back role and it was from Williams' 12th-minute cross that Dan Wooden spectacularly fired Gosport in front last Saturday with an overhead kick past Hawks' keeper Ryan Young.

Scott Donnelly levelled with a 25-yard belter five minutes later only for the Hawks' former Gosport defender Lee Molyneux to gift his old club a 2-1 victory – by scoring at the wrong end to the delight of the home supporters in a bumper 1,313 Privett Park crowd.

Praising Williams' decision-making in the full-back role, Pike said: "Rory is very selective when he goes forward. He seems to know when to stay at home and defend and when to go forward and exploit the opposition.

"Both goals came from there – and many other opportunities as well."

The result pushed Borough up to fifth in the National League South going into today's return match at Havant.

It's worrying times, though, for Lee Bradbury's Hawks who have slipped into 21st position with only Basingstoke cushioning them from bottom spot. They have also conceded more goals – 46 – than any other club in the league.

To add to their frustration at Gosport, Havant had ex-Bournemouth man Brian Stock sent off in added time for a second bookable offence.

The Hawks had hoped to be back in action on Bank Holiday Monday, but an unexpected bout of overnight rain forced them to postpone their home clash with Bath City.

Had they known the downpour was coming, they would have covered the pitch.



Rory Williams

# Wort's Poole loan extended

## Ex-Sholing ace will stay in Dorset for second month

**LEE Wort's loan spell with Poole Town has been extended for a second month.**

His time in Dorset had been due to end after today's heavyweight clash with Weymouth in the Southern Premier Division.

But Dolphins boss Tom Killick has been so impressed with the former Sholing hotshot that Wort will get extra chances to impress.

St Mary's lad Wort has netted twice in five league appearances for Poole since starting his month-long loan deal at the start of December.

"From a personal point of view, I'd love to keep him because he has been really good for us," Killick said prior to Wort's loan spell being extended.

"Against Frome last week he worked really hard and occupied their defenders. Overall he has been a real presence for us."

Wort had a prolific record at Sholing in both the Sydenhams and Southern leagues.

### Tried

He trialled with League Two Accrington Stanley in July 2014 when James Beattie was in charge.

He subsequently signed for Alex Pike's Gosport on the back of scoring more than 50 goals in Sholing's FA Vase/Sydenhams Premier double-winning season.

● MICHAEL Walker insists Poole Town must remain grounded despite their strong position in the Southern Premier Division title race.

The Dolphins entered the New Year with a sizeable 12-point cushion at the top, putting them well on course to achieve their National League South dream.

But defender Walker remembers vividly the disappointment of last term when they lost a final-day title decider against Corby before exiting the play-off semi-finals against St Neots.

Walker said: "I think we have to take it one step at a time.

"Tommy [Killick, manager] doesn't look too far ahead and for me it's the same.

"We don't want to get too carried



Lee Wort in action during his Sholing heyday.

away because last season everyone was gutted and there was a cloud hanging over us at the start of this season.

### Good character

"We have showed good character to be in the position we are and it's just about maintaining that now."

Poole endured a frustrating end to 2015, striking the woodwork three

times in a 0-0 Boxing Day stalemate at struggling Frome Town.

Substitute Richard Gillespie smacked the inside of an upright in the dying moments after teammates Marvin Brooks and Lewis Lindsay had hit bar and post respectively.

Admitting the conditions had not helped, Killick said: "It was difficult to play any sort of football as the pitch was very heavy and bumpy and

it was very windy.

"The Richard Gillespie chance was fairly agonising as it was in the 90th minute and it hit the inside of the post and rolled back into the goalkeeper's arms.

"Everyone thought it was going in.

"I can't really remember a chance of note that Frome had, but sometimes you have to give credit to the opposition for being resilient."



# Non league FOOTBALL



Eastleigh's main stand at the Silverlake Stadium

## Spitfires' £4m plan to make ground more user-friendly

Eastleigh want to construct a new main stand

**EASTLEIGH'S ambitious plan for a new 2,200-seater stand at the Silverlake Stadium is not so much about raising the crowd capacity.**

It's more about making the Stoneham Lane site customer-friendly and providing the Spitfires with extra ways to generate funds, *writes Wendy Gee*.

Subject to planning permission being granted, chairman Stewart Donald estimates that the new stand – incorporating changing rooms, executive boxes, bars, offices, a shop/ticket office and a conference facility – will set him back another £3-4 million, more or less doubling what he has already pumped into the club.

But chief executive Mark Jewell reckons it will be money well spent.

A gymnasium is one of many possibilities being discussed should the project get the go-ahead and, much further down the line, the Spitfires would love to have a hotel on site to capitalise on its proximity to Southampton Airport and the cruise ship terminals.



Eastleigh chairman Stewart Donald

But, in the shorter term, the plan would entail improving catering/bar outlets on matchdays and hiring out facilities during the week.

"It's not so much about increasing the capacity as about making the ground more user-friendly for away fans as well as home fans with better bars, better food outlets, etc." said Jewell. "A new stand would give

us space to generate non-football activities to bring in money during the week.

"It would tidy the ground up and get rid of all the Portakabins.

"We've been getting plans and prices together and we're looking to speak to the council in the new year."

The proposal is for the stand to stretch from corner flag to corner

flag on the Stoneham Lane side of the ground.

It will replace the current main stand that was officially opened by former Saints chairman Rupert Lowe before the start of the 2004/05 season after Paul Doswell had guided the Spitfires into the Conference South.

Oxfordshire-based businessman Donald has already delivered on the impressive Mackoy Community Stand at the far end of the ground, raising the stadium capacity to just over 5,000.

Chris Todd and his players are doing their bit to win promotion from the National League and it is hoped to dovetail that with strengthening the club infrastructure and delivering the dream of becoming a Football League club.

Eastleigh are expecting a sell-out crowd next Saturday for the visit of Championship strugglers Bolton in the FA Cup third round.

"It's what Stew has wanted ever since he walked into the club," said Jewell. "It's the culmination of three-and-a-half years' work."

With the FA Cup match flanked by today's league game against Bromley and the FA Trophy tie against Gateshead – both at home – Donald intends reducing admission prices for the Trophy tie.

He appreciates finances are tight at this time of the year.

## Kelly: I'm no diver

**FORMER Winchester, Salisbury and Poole wide man Adam Kelly has hit back at claims that he goes to ground too easily.**

Weymouth's creative midfielder had one shout for a spot kick turned down and one awarded during his side's 2-2 Boxing Day draw against Dorchester in the Southern Premier Division.

Tweeting live updates from the derby clash, Dorchester's club twitter account claimed Kelly "seems to be in competition with Tom Daley."

An earlier post accused Kelly of hitting the floor twice with "no contact at all."

Reacting to the posts, Kelly said: "A couple of my mates tagged me in it! I didn't really respond because I thought it was quite childish."

"It's obvious that Dorchester aren't capable of playing pretty football so, to try and deal with the way we play, they try to get a foot in, get in your face and, to a certain extent, it worked."

"I can't remember a time where I have deliberately gone down, they fouled me each time."

"If they want to try and win the ball off me in there then obviously I am going to look for fouls and free-kicks in and around the box - that's part of my game."

● **THE** twice-postponed Hampshire FA Senior Cup third round tie between Winchester City and Eastleigh has been rearranged.

Weather permitting, the game will now take place on January 12 at Winchester's Denplan City Ground HQ with a 7.45pm kick-off.

It is one of three cup ties in the space of a week for the Spitfires who entertain Bolton in the FA Cup on January 9 and Gateshead in the FA Trophy on January 16.

Totton & Eling's delayed HSC third round match against Horndean has also been rescheduled for January 12. The winners will entertain Sholing in the quarter-finals.

Hampshire FA Senior Cup, quarter-finals (to be played on January 19): Havant & Waterlooville v AFC Portchester, Basingstoke Town v Totton & Eling or Horndean, Winchester City or Eastleigh v Sholing, Fleet Town v Lymington Town.



Adam Kelly



# Eddie reflects on start of his Cherries love affair

## Howe debut 20 years ago a perfect start

**BEING number one at Christmas with Cherries supporters has been a regular occurrence for Eddie Howe.**

Since masterminding the club's revival following his second coming as manager, Howe has always been flavour of the month at the festive period, writes **NEIL PERRETT**.

Top of the charts in the Championship 12 months ago, he went on to deliver the perfect present – promotion to the Premier League.

A two-time winner of the prestigious Micky Cave-Daily Echo supporters' player-of-the-year award, fans set up Eddie Share to fund his return in 2004.

Even on his professional debut – which came 20 years ago last month – a fresh-faced Howe was voted man of the match for his performance against Hull City.

It was the start of a passionate affair that grew stronger during an all-too-brief playing career which was cruelly cut short by a knee injury when he was 29.

"It was an honour and a privilege to play for this club," said Howe, who was youth team captain when he made his first appearance in a 2-0 home win against the Tigers just days after his 18th birthday in December 1995.

"Making my debut against Hull was a big high in my career. For someone who had wanted it so badly, it was a fantastic day. I thought I might play once and never again so all the games were a bonus for me."

Drafted in by boss Mel Machin, Howe received a standing ovation when he was replaced by Mark Rawlinson 13 minutes from time against Hull.

He also started a 2-0 defeat at Oxford on Boxing Day and a 2-0 home reverse at the hands of Shrewsbury a week later.

"The Hull game was one of the days of my life that I remember quite vividly," said Howe, who was rewarded with his first pro contract at the end of the 1995-96 season.

"I remember reporting for the game and not expecting to play or even be on the bench. An hour before kick-off, Mel read out the team and mentioned my name second, as if I was playing right-back.

"I had a feeling in my stom-



AFC Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe

ach which went right through me. Suddenly, I realised I was going to play a professional game of football. I was quite nervous initially but felt fine once we had started.

"I experienced a huge range of emotions in the 60 minutes before kick-off and don't think I have ever had a feeling like it since. I just wanted to do well and wanted to impress. Thankfully, the game went well.

"I remember feeling good early in the game. Because my first couple of touches were good, I could sense a good reaction from the crowd.

"It has always stayed with me. I know it is a bit corny but that

has never changed. The supporters have always been the same with me. That was the most positive thing to take from the experience of making my debut.

"I played the next two games. We lost at Oxford. I didn't play particularly well but didn't do anything drastically wrong either.

"I gave away a penalty against Shrewsbury and that was the end of my little run in the team. Mel rightly took me out on the back of that performance. It was probably good for me to come out. It gave me a taste, I went away and worked harder at my game to come back better."

Howe handed opportunities

to a host of young players during his first spell as Cherries manager but knows times have changed now.

"I can see someone making their debut for this club at 18," said Howe. "We had Matt Butcher on the bench at Chelsea a couple of weeks ago and there are other players coming through who we really like.

"It is more difficult than it was in my day, there is no doubt about that. These lads have it much harder. It is harder to get a chance due to the money and everything involved at this level. But I would like nothing more than to give that opportunity to someone."

### FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday, January 3  
Barclays Premier League: Crystal Palace v Chelsea (1330).  
Everton v Tottenham (1600).  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v Evesham (2.00)

Tuesday, January 5  
Capital One Cup semi-final first leg: Stoke v Liverpool (2000).  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
Hemel Hempstead v Eastbourne Borough.  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Bedworth v Hitchin, Biggleswade v Bideford, Chesham v St Neots, Cirencester v Histon, Kettering v Leamington, Kings Lynn v Merythyr Town, Paulton Rovers v Weymouth (7.30).  
Division One South & West: Bridgwater v Cinderford, Marlow v Taunton.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Blackfield & Langley v Hamworthy Utd, Cowes Sports v Bemerton HH, Fareham v Bournemouth Poppies, Horndean v Salisbury, Newport IoW v AFC Portchester.  
RUSSELL COTES CUP  
Second round: Lymington Town v Fleet Town; Quarter-final: Moneyfields v Otterbourne.

Wednesday, January 6  
Capital One Cup semi-final first leg: Everton v Man City (2000).  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Cambridge City v Stratford, Frome v Dorchester.  
Division One South & West: Winchester City v Didcot.  
RUSSELL COTES CUP  
Quarter-final: Sholing v Gosport Borough.

Friday, January 8  
EMIRATES FA CUP  
Third round: Exeter City v Liverpool (7.55)

Saturday, January 9  
EMIRATES FA CUP  
Third round: Wycombe Wanderers v Aston Villa (12.45), Arsenal v Sunderland, Birmingham v AFC Bournemouth, Brentford v Walsall, Bury v Bradford, Colchester v Charlton, Doncaster v Stoke, Eastleigh v Bolton Wanderers, Everton v Dagenham & Redbridge, Hartlepool v Derby, Huddersfield v Reading, Hull v Brighton, Ipswich v Portsmouth, Leeds v Rotherham, Middlesbrough v Burnley, Newport v Blackburn, Northampton v MK Dons, Norwich v Manchester City, Nottingham Forest v QPR, Peterborough v Preston, Sheffield Wednesday v Fulham, Saints v Crystal Palace, Watford v Newcastle, West Brom v Bristol City, West Ham v Wolves, Manchester Utd v Sheffield Utd (5.30).  
Sky Bet League One: Blackpool v Port Vale. Oldham v Millwall. Rochdale v Chesterfield. Swindon v Southend.  
League Two: Accrington v Notts County. Barnet v Bristol Rovers. Crawley v Cambridge. Mansfield v Stevenage. Johnstone's Paint Trophy northern section final first leg: Barnsley v Fleetwood.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Aldershot v Chester, Altrincham v Gateshead, Barrow v Tranmere, Boreham Wood v Cheltenham, Bromley v Southport, Guiseley v Forest Green, Lincoln v Dover, Macclesfield v FC Halifax, Torquay v Braintree, Welling v Grimsby, Wrexham v Woking.  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
Bath v Maidstone, Bishops Cleeve v Whitehawk, Chelmsford v Weston-super-Mare, Eastbourne Borough v Basingstoke Town, Ebbsfleet v Truro, Gosport Borough v Wealdstone, Hayes & Yeading v Dartford, Hemel Hempstead v Havant & Waterlooville, Margate v Maidenhead, Oxford City v Concord, Sutton v St Albans.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Bedworth v Cirencester, Bideford v Redditch, Cambridge City v Paulton, Chippenham v Leamington, Dunstable v Hungerford, Frome v St Neots, Kings Lynn v Chesham, Merythyr Town v Histon, Slough v Kettering, Stratford v Poole Town, Weymouth v Hitchin.  
Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Marlow, Bashley v Swindon Supermarine, Burnham v Yate, Cinderford v Wimbome, Evesham v Bridgwater, Larkhall v Shortwood, Mangotsfield v Taunton, North Leigh v Bishops Cleeve, Slough v Winchester City, Tiverton v Banbury, Wantage v Didcot.

FA VASE  
Fourth round: Newport IoW v Ashford Utd, Moneyfields v Bristol Manor Farm.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Folland Sports, Alresford Town v Moneyfields, Bournemouth Poppies v Blackfield & Langley, Hamworthy Utd v Fawley AFC, Team Solent v Brockenhurst, Verwood v Bemerton HH, Whitchurch v Cowes Sports.

Division One: Alton v Amesbury, Andover NS v New Milton, East Cowes v Hythe & Dibden, Fleet Spurs v Laverstock & Ford, Portland v Downton, Romsey v Ringwood, Tadley Calleva v AFC Stoneham, Totton & Eling v Christchurch, US Portsmouth v Pewsey Vale.

SATURDAY 9 JANUARY  
Hampshire Intermediate Cup, Third round  
Hedge End Rangers v West Wight  
Hampshire Intermediate Cup, Fourth round  
Otterbourne v BTC Southampton, Whitecroft & Barton Sports v Liphook United, Winchester Castle v Netley Central Sports, Yateley United v Bush Hill

Hampshire Premier League Premier Division  
Baffins Milton Rovers v Fleetlands, Clanfield v Colden Common, Headley United v Hamble Club, Locks Heath v Infinity, QK Southampton v Paulsgrove, Stockbridge v Liss Athletic  
Division 1  
Andover Lions v Burridge AFC, Broughton v AFC Petersfield, Four Marks v Upham, Hayling United v Lyndhurst  
Combination East  
AFC Petersfield Res v Headley United Res, Liphook United Res v Baffins Milton Rovers Res, Liss Athletic Res v Hayling United Res

Sunday, January 10  
FA VASE  
Fourth round: AFC Dunstable v Salisbury.



## Eastleigh aim to pull off an historic win

from page

Crawley 2 Derby County 1, 2011  
Former Eastleigh favourite Craig McAllister fired the then Conference club into the lead against the second tier Rams.

Miles Addison levelled in the second period, but one-time Basingstoke Town midfielder Sergio Torres popped up with a dramatic 90th minute winner.

The Sussex club went on to reach the fifth round – the first non leaguers to do so since Kidderminster in 1994 – before only losing 1-0 at Old Trafford.

Crawley, helped by the goals of ex-Salisbury star Matt Tubbs, romped to the Conference title that season.

Manchester United 0 Leeds United 1, 2010

Leeds might be a famous name in football, but at the time they were a third tier club – alongside the likes of Saints and Norwich City.

Striker Jermaine Beckford's winner gave the visitors a famous victory at Old Trafford.

Leeds took Tottenham to a replay in the fourth round, and went on to win promotion from League 1 on the final day of the 2009/10 season.

Stevenage 3 Newcastle 1, 2011



Former Saints boss Alan Pardew

A miserable afternoon for Alan Pardew, who had not long been in charge at Newcastle.

Ex-Saint Mike Williamson put through his own goal to give the fourth tier hosts the lead.

Michael Bostwick doubled the lead before Chuck Tiote was dismissed for Newcastle.

Peter Winn made it 3-0 a minute from time, before Joey Barton grabbed a consolation.

Luton Town 1 Wolves 0, 2013  
Conference club Luton produced a shock win against Championship side Wolves.

Alex Lawless was the home team's hero, while Wolves sacked manager Stale Solbakken hours after the match.

Wolves were punished when defender Kevin Foley messed up a clearance, allowing Jon Shaw to head down for Lawless to volley home on 46 minutes.

The Hatters – FA Cup semi finalists in 1985 and 1988 – produced an even bigger upset in the fourth round, winning 1-0 at Premier Leaguers Norwich.

That was the first time since 1989 that a non league team had beaten a top flight side, and the first since 1986 that it had been achieved by the away side.

Drawn at home to Millwall in the fifth round, Luton were thumped 3-0.

# 2016 could be a great

**FOR many years, the south coast has been a footballing backwater with Saints the region's most consistent and often only representative in English football's top flight.**

But the sands are shifting. We are in the midst of a footballing sea change on the south coast, writes SIMON WALTER.

Now in their fourth season back in the Premier League, Saints are once again ensconced in the top flight after their seven-year Football League sabbatical.

They could soon have company.

The rise of AFC Bournemouth and Brighton & Hove Albion's threatens to alter the Premier League demographic significantly.

We could well have three Premier League clubs within 100 miles of each other in five months' time.

What a prospect that is for the south coast.

London, the north-west, the north-east and the midlands know what it is like to have three Premier League clubs or more within a closer geographical proximity.

But Aston Villa look relegation certs after 27 years in the top-flight, a demise that would leave only Leicester City and West Bromwich Albion representing the midlands, and Middlesbrough could well be promoted with Newcastle and Sunderland heading the other way.

### Hotbed

All of a sudden, the south-coast is a veritable football hotbed.

Admittedly, Brighton still have a lot to do.

After ending 2015 without a win in five games and then beginning 2016 with a third successive home defeat, 1-0 to Wolves yesterday, they have slipped from their top-of-the-table perch to fourth in the Championship.

But, barring a meltdown between now and May, they should still have enough to secure a top-six finish.

That would give them the chance to make up for their play-off-semi-final defeats of 2013 and 2014 – and maybe go one better than their defeat in the 1991 final.

The rest of the Nineties were a bleak time for the Seagulls, who lost their home of 95 years and only retained their Football League status on goal difference in 1997.

### Oblivion

Like Bournemouth, Brighton were on the threshold of oblivion not so long ago so what a time it would be to return to English football's elite.

A Cherries survival and a Seagulls promotion would see two clubs with only four top-flight seasons between them prior to this one (Brighton were in the old first division from 1979-83) cash in on the next TV rights deal, worth £5.136bn from 2016-19.

Leaving aside the cash incentive, the Premier League will have a



Jose Fonte about to be congratulated by Virgil van Dijk after scoring in the Boxing Day thrashing of Arsenal.



Bournemouth's Charlie Daniels scores in the recent win at West Bromwich Albion

semblance of romance about it if we find ourselves looking forward to Saints fixtures against Brighton as well as Bournemouth five months hence.

It is only five years since the three clubs were in League One together; when Saints were promoted as

runners-up behind Gus Poyet's Seagulls.

The Cherries were not far behind in sixth, since when Eddie Howe's know-how and Maxim Denim's largesse has fired Bournemouth to two promotions in three years.

But retaining their Premier

League status would surpass the achievement of getting there.

After back-to-back wins against Chelsea and Manchester United last month, there is no doubt they are capable of it.

Glenn Murray went a long way to repaying his £4m transfer fee

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# t year for south coast



Brighton and Hove Albion's Rajiv van La Parra in action against Ipswich. The Seagulls are bidding to return to the top flight for the first time since 1983



Eastleigh's James Constable celebrates his goal in the FA Cup win at Stourbridge (Photo by Stuart Martin)

by scoring the winner at Stamford Bridge and Howe has already made an eye-catching signing in this transfer window - Roma winger Juan Iturbe having been signed on loan yesterday.

That they have done as well as they have is a wonderful achievement, especially given the loss of

injured trio Callum Wilson, Tyrone Mings and Max Gradel.

Wilson was the Cherries' top scorer during their Championship promotion-winning season, while Mings and Gradel were two of Howe's most expensive summer signings.

You wonder how far Howe can

go with his eye for a player, man-management and coaching skills par excellence.

Still only 38, he may well manage England one day, but his Bournemouth habitat is bringing the best out of him for now.

Howe knows more than anyone how quickly the footballing land-

scape can change, all the more so for his time at Fratton Park, where he spent an injury-wrecked couple of seasons in his mid-twenties as Pompey reached the Premier League under Harry Redknapp.

Only six years ago Pompey were the top club on the south coast, a mid-table Championship side while their three neighbours were bubbling under in the top six of League One.

After reaching their nadir - back-to-back finishes in the bottom half of League Two - Pompey (FA Cup winners as recently as 2008, lest we forget) are challenging at the right end of the table under Paul Cook.

But they are still conspicuous by their absence in the top two divisions as Saints get used to the idea that little Bournemouth are now their main south-coast rivals.

Thanks largely to their futuristic Amex stadium, Brighton and not Pompey are now the second-best supported club in the region, with an average gate of nearly 24,000 - more than three times what they used to get at the Goldstone Ground and the Withdean Stadium in the Nineties and Noughties.

## Benefit

Only Derby County are watched by more fans in the Championship than the Seagulls, who are finally reaping the benefits of having a football stadium worthy of the name.

Credit too to Pompey's supporters for their loyalty while their upwardly mobile neighbours are enjoying the fruits of success.

With average crowds of more than 15,000, the Fratton Parkers are comfortably the best-supported club in League Two.

But they may yet be in the same division as Eastleigh next season, which would be almost as remarkable as having three south-coast clubs in the top flight.

The Spitfires, Wessex League champions as recently as 2002/03 - have emerged as one of the most ambitious clubs outside the Football League.

## Remarkable

The club have been upwardly mobile ever since owner Stewart Donald took over in late 2011.

Since then, the Oxfordshire-based businessman has ploughed in over £3m of his own cash.

As is the case with the Cherries, though, it would be wrong to put their success down to money alone.

With a young, talented manager at the helm in Chris Todd, Bridle Insurance's investment is in safe hands.

Next week's visit of Bolton Wanderers in the third round of the FA Cup is another watershed moment for Eastleigh and the region, with a game at the Silverlake Stadium overshadowing a Saints game at St Mary's.

It promises to be quite an occasion and an appropriate way to begin what promises to be another memorable year in these parts.

## Tiger trying to roar as loud as he used to

**TIGER Woods once looked on course to easily surpass the record of 18 major titles set by Jack Nicklaus. But injuries, off-course problems and a loss of form mean the former world number one, who turned 40 on December 30, has been stuck on 14 since 2008.**

Here is a timeline of Woods and Nicklaus' major triumphs.

### TIGER WOODS

- 1 - 1997 Masters, Augusta National, Age 21
- 2 - 1999 US PGA, Medinah, Age 23
- 3 - 2000 US Open, Pebble Beach, Age 24
- 4 - 2000 Open Championship, St Andrews, Age 24
- 5 - 2000 US PGA, Valhalla, Age 24
- 6 - 2001 Masters, Augusta, Age 25
- 7 - 2002 Masters, Augusta, Age 26
- 8 - 2002 US Open, Bethpage, Age 26
- 9 - 2005 Masters, Augusta National, Age 29
- 10 - 2005 Open Championship, St Andrews, Age 29
- 11 - 2006 Open Championship, Royal Liverpool, Age 30
- 12 - 2006 US PGA, Medinah, Age 30
- 13 - 2007 US PGA, Southern Hills, Age 31



Tiger Woods

- 14 - 2008 US Open, Torrey Pines, Age 32

### JACK NICKLAUS

- 1 - 1962 US Open, Oakmont, Age 22
- 2 - 1963 Masters, Augusta, Age 23
- 3 - 1963 US PGA, Dallas Athletic Club, Age 23
- 4 - 1965 Masters, Augusta, Age 25
- 5 - 1966 Masters, Augusta, Age 26
- 6 - 1966 Open Championship, Muirfield, Age 26
- 7 - 1967 US Open, Baltusrol, Age 27
- 8 - 1970 Open Championship, St Andrews, Age 30
- 9 - 1971 US PGA, PGA National, Age 31
- 10 - 1972 Masters, Augusta, Age 32
- 11 - 1972 US Open, Pebble Beach, Age 32
- 12 - 1973 US PGA, Canterbury, Age 33
- 13 - 1975 Masters, Augusta, Age 35
- 14 - 1975 US PGA, Firestone, Age 35
- 15 - 1978 Open Championship, St Andrews, Age 38
- 16 - 1980 US Open, Baltusrol, Age 40
- 17 - 1980 US PGA, Oak Hill, Age 40
- 18 - 1986 Masters, Augusta, Age 46



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## The men who could light up Euro 2016

**THE Euro 2016 Championships take place this summer. Here are some of the players we look forward to seeing in France.**

### CRISTIANO RONALDO

Ronaldo inspired Portugal to the semi-finals four years ago. He has since become his country's all-time leading goalscorer and his five goals in qualifying made him the leading scorer in European Championship history.

### ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI

The leading marksman in qualifying was Poland's Lewandowski, who scored 13 times, equalling the record set by Northern Ireland's David Healy in 2007.

The Bayern Munich frontman is one of Europe's most feared players and will be appearing in his second major finals.

### ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC

Ronaldo won the battle of the superstars in the World Cup qualifying play-offs two years ago but Ibrahimovic and Sweden will have their chance to shine on the big stage this time.

Ibrahimovic scored 11 goals in qualifying and averages better than a goal every two games in international football.

### GARETH BALE

Real Madrid fans may have their reservations about the former Saints full-back turned forward but Wales supporters have no such doubts after he inspired Chris Coleman's side to reach a major finals for the first time in more than 50 years.

### THOMAS MULLER

In a Germany team full of stars, it is very often Muller that proves the key presence. The Bayern Munich forward finished as the leading scorer in the 2010 World Cup and was second in the scoring charts in Brazil



**Wales star Gareth Bale could light up Euro 2016.**

### in 2014.

### DAVID SILVA

Spain lack the magic dust of the team that won three consecutive major finals between 2008 and 2012 and do not have a standout star.

But in Manchester City's David Silva they have one of the cleverest playmakers around.

### PAUL POGBA

The hosts will be desperate to do well and in Pogba France have one of the most exciting talents in Europe.

A versatile midfielder, he was named Best Young Player at the World Cup in Brazil.

### CLAUDIO MARCHISIO

Pogba's Juventus team-mate sits at the heart of Italy's team.

A combative player, he also has an eye for goal and scored against England at the World Cup in 2014. Part of the team that were runners-up at the European Championship in 2012.

### ROMELU LUKAKU

Belgium sit at the top of the world rankings and have a team packed full of world-class talent.

While playmaker Eden Hazard is struggling to find his best form, striker Lukaku cannot stop scoring for Everton - 18 goals in all competitions so far this season - and will be a man to fear for all Belgium's opponents.

### ROSS BARKLEY

England's young players will hope to get their chance in France, none more so than Everton playmaker Barkley.

He went to the last World Cup and has shown in performances for club and country since that he can bring a touch of class to Roy Hodgson's side.

# January transfer wi

**SAINTS may be in for a quiet month in the January transfer window, but the rest of the Premier League is set to be a hive of activity.**

The top-flight is a wildly unpredictable place at the moment with the reigning champions Chelsea sitting just above the relegation zone while Leicester are unexpectedly flying high.

And it is set to get even more unpredictable as clubs bolster their squads for the second-half of the campaign as they try to fulfil their respective targets.

Saints, though, may stay fairly quiet with only the vague possibility of a new striker arriving if Graziano Pelle and Jay Rodriguez remain sidelined.

Here, the Sports Pink provides a club-to-club rundown of what to expect from each of the Premier League's teams in the window.

**Aston Villa:** The Premier League's bottom side need to strengthen. It is their only hope of survival after a simply horrendous season so far.

Villa have mustered one victory, netted just 15 goals, conceded 34 and sacked manager Tim Sherwood.

They sit 11 points adrift of safety new boss Remi Garde has an unenviable task.

Priority number one for Garde is Loic Remy, the Chelsea striker. The Frenchmen know each other well after a spell at Lyon together while Garde was assistant manager.

But Chelsea's interim boss, Guus Hiddink, insists the player is not for sale.

Villa have also been linked with former Newcastle attacker Hatem Ben Arfa who has been rejuvenated at Nice.

There are rumours of a swap deal with their playmaker Carles Gil for Antonio Adan, the Real Betis goalkeeper - though current stopper Brad Guzan was impressive in their 1-1 draw at Saints in early December.

**Arsenal:** Arsene Wenger is usually reluctant to spend in January, but this season could be very different.

Wenger has admitted he expects to be busy this month as he tries to win the league for the first time since 2003/04.

Basle midfielder Mohamed Elnezy seems close to signing and, with Danny Welbeck, Jack Wilshere and Francis Coquelin sidelined, Wenger will be aiming to bolster his team enough to sustain a title charge.

Saints' Victor Wanyama has repeatedly been linked with the Gunners - despite Ronald Koeman being adamant that no-one will leave St Mary's in January and Wenger also admitting he is not on his radar this month.

With Coquelin out, Arsenal's priority is getting in another defensive midfielder - though Elnezy fits that



**Victor Wanyama, left, continues to be linked with a move to Arsenal**



**Patrick Bamford, who has been linked with a loan move to Cherries**

bill.

Former Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez, who is currently at Bayer Leverkusen, has been pencilled in as a potential signing.

On the way out of the Emirates could well be full-back Mathieu Debuchy, who has fallen below Hector Bellerin in the pecking order at right-back.

**Bournemouth:** Eddie Howe hopes that he'll be able to bring in new recruits in January but insists that Cherries will be able to sustain their Premier League status without fresh arrivals.

Bournemouth were stunned when goalscoring talisman Callum Wilson, defender Tyrone Mings and fellow big money signing Max Gradel were sidelined early on with long-term injuries.

Captain Tommy Elphick was then sidelined too.

Howe reckons it could prove difficult for any club to do business in January, but it hasn't stopped Bournemouth being linked with a number of players.

Among them are Malaga keeper Carlos Kameni with question marks over some of the performances from ex-Saint Artur Boruc and Adam Federici.

With Wilson out for up to six months, forward Patrick Bamford, now back at Chelsea after a loan spell at Crystal Palace, has been tipped for a move to Cherries. Fulham's Ross McCormack and Roma's Juan Iturbe have also been linked.

**Chelsea:** The Blues are set to replace the spine of their team in January.

The reigning Champions sit just three points off the drop zone in the Premier League after sacking Jose Mourinho following a well documented and wide ranging mess.

A striker seems to be high on the agenda with Radamel Falcao offering little, Loic Remy being linked with Villa and Diego Costa struggling to replicate the form of last season.

Chelsea have shown interest in Atletico Madrid striker Jackson Martinez, although his agent recently admitted that he's happy in Spain.

Their first choice would be Jamie Vardy, the Leicester striker, but West Brom's Saido Berahino, Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette of Lyon have also been linked.

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# Window to come alive



Leicester City will be bracing themselves for bids for top scorer Jamie Vardy this month

The Blues are also after a midfielder and defender.

They could return for John Stones, the Everton centre-back who they went for in the summer, or PSG's Marquinhos at the back.

They could move for £30m-rated Alex Teixeira of Shakhtar Donetsk in midfield.

Crystal Palace: New American investment at Selhurst Park will not reflect in their January business, according to chairman Steve Parish.

It means it could be a quiet month for fifth-placed Palace despite wealthy investors Josh Harris and David Blitzner taking a large stake in the club.

Palace could bring in a striker as they take aim for European football.

Their top-scorer is midfielder Yohan Cabaye with five goals and their last two games have ended goalless.

Sporting Lisbon's Islam Slimani, valued at £14m, has been tipped for a move to the Londoners while Marseille frontman Michy Batshuayi is another potential signing.

Chelsea forward Patrick Bamford has returned to his parent club while strikers Dwight Gayle and Frazier Campbell could also leave. Marouane Chamakh joins the list of out-of-form forwards along with Connor Wickham, who has scored once this term.

Everton: Tim Howard, 36, has been a loyal servant but the American stopper is out of form and, as a result, a new custodian will be on the agenda for the Toffees.



Leicester City's Riyad Mahrez could attract interest this month

Steve Mandanda, the Marseille goalkeeper, has been linked. Mandanda has also been linked with cross-city rivals Liverpool.

Andriy Yarmolenko, the highly-rated Dynamo Kiev attacker, is apparently a target with Steven Naim-Smith expected move on in an £8m deal to Norwich.

A deal for young Swiss talent, Shani Tarashaj, is also in the pipe-

line.

The Switzerland under-21 international has been tipped for big things after scoring 18 times already this season for Grasshopper Club Zurich, who he will be loaned back to for the remainder of the season if a deal is done.

Leicester: With all their unexpected success has come all the ex-

pected interest in their top players.

There was been a constant cascade of interest in key attacking duo Riyad Mahrez and Jamie Vardy.

All it takes is one quick snoop on any newspaper website and you can see that every man and his dog has been linked with top-scorer Vardy and outstanding attacker Mahrez.

So that means the main task for Claudio Ranieri for January is to keep those two and ensure that those big nasty clubs with all the dosh don't come and pinch their best players.

Ranieri may try and sneak a couple of new recruits in.

AC Milan's Nigel de Jong, the former Manchester City midfielder, has been linked and Demarai Gray, the Birmingham City youngster who Bournemouth were keen to sign last January, is another on Leicester's radar.

Liverpool: Have struggled for goals. Undoubtedly they've created the chances to win many games, but haven't found that killer touch when it matters most.

A bit like Saints, really.

But that isn't their biggest problem because their defence is pretty bad – they have the worst record in the top half of the Premier League.

Dejan Lovren, the £20m signing from Saints, has, for the most part, despite looking slightly improved under the German, been very shaky alongside Martin Skrtel at the heart of the defence.

Simon Mignolet, the goalkeeper, could also find himself replaced.

Defensive recruits are high on the agenda.

Manchester City: Vincent Kompany is the reason why City aren't at the top of the Premier League.

With Kompany they will more than likely win – they've not lost when he's in the team this term.

But City have lost five times when he's been absent.

He's now out for around a month after picking up yet another injury.

If they were to go for a defensive signing, Everton's John Stones – also in high demand by Chelsea – would fit the bill.

He has the potential to be a great player, but the England centre-back would come at a colossal cost – possibly £40m.

Manager Manuel Pellegrini will be considering whether or not to splash their billions on a new striker.

They shipped out Stefan Jovetic and Edin Dzeko last summer, leaving them short up top. And with Sergio Aguero struggling to get back to full fitness and Wilfried Bony yet to prove he provides adequate cover for the Argentine, there might be a temptation to delve into the market for a new frontman.

Jamie Vardy is allegedly one player they may be tempted to look at.

continued on page 36

## Pressures of a manager

Sports book review

Living on the Volcano

By Michael Calvin

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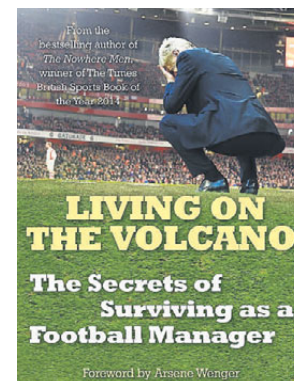
Cardiff City manager Russell Slade began his managerial career at Notts County more than twenty years ago when he was asked to take on the caretaker's role, a job that lasted until January 1995.

It was not a particularly glorious stint in the hot seat and Slade had to wait a further three years before he was invited to manage another club, this time Sheffield United, where he also acted as caretaker twice in the same season.

At the time of writing, Slade has sent out 732 teams as a manager.

Perhaps his most successful spell came at Leyton Orient, a club he saved from relegation after being appointed with half a dozen games of the League One season to go. By 2013-14, he was the division's Manager of the Season.

Yet having served a lengthy apprenticeship and gained deserved recognition, Slade was undermined when new foreign owners took over at Brisbane Road. They confronted the manager in front of his players and threatened to sack him if he failed to win his next game. Classy eh?



This anecdote, taken from Michael Calvin's outstanding *Living on the Volcano*, offers one reason why football supporters should stop and think before slipping into default criticism mode, ie berating the manager when the 11 guys on the pitch are incapable of passing the ball to each other.

Calvin speaks with managers such as Ian Holloway, a man who has moved house 32 times in less than 20 years as a football manager. Then there's Martin Ling, formerly the manager at Leyton Orient and Torquay, who was so badly affected by depression that he underwent therapy.\*

Such is the degree of job insecurity, confirmed here by Shaun Derry and, movingly, by Adie Boothroyd, that depression is unusually common amongst football managers.

Managers have become easy targets for abuse and criticism while those on the pitch escape censure.

After reading this absorbing book, however, no-one will want to automatically pin culpability for indifferent performances upon the man on the sidelines.

\* Ling resigned as Swindon boss earlier this week for health reasons too.



## Van Gaal still short of Sir Alex's rants

LOUIS van Gaal walked out of a pre-match press conference just before Christmas becoming angered by the reporting of speculation regarding his future.

The Dutchman is not the first Manchester United manager to lash out at the press at Carrington, of course.

Sir Alex Ferguson famously hit out at the media on several occasions during his time at Old Trafford.

Here, we look at some of the Scot's most famous rants at the media...

May 7, 2002

With his team on the verge of winning nothing in the 2001-02 season, Ferguson took umbrage at claims Juan Sebastian Veron was not good enough to cut it in the Premier League.

The Scot ordered journalists to "get out" of the training ground after they asked him about the Argentinian midfielder and then snapped: "He (Veron) is a f\*\*\*\*\* great player and you're all f\*\*\*\*\* idiots."

November 21, 2011

After his team could only manage a 2-2 draw at home to Benfica, Ferguson was angered by a reporter's claim that the "two top teams in England" at the time (United and Manchester City) were "struggling" in Europe.



Sir Alex Ferguson cut short many a press conference

He replied, "Say that again. Struggling? Thank you. Are you serious? We are not struggling" before walking out.

May 24, 2011

One intrepid reporter defied United's edict, which said Ferguson would not answer questions at a Champions League press conference regarding Ryan Giggs, who had been at the centre of allegations regarding his private life at the time.

After curtly answering the question about his star midfielder, Ferguson turned to his press officer and whispered: "The guy who asked about Giggs. Who is he? Ban him for Friday."

Unfortunately for Ferguson, his words were picked up by the microphones on the top table.

October 21, 2009

Ferguson cut short his press conference ahead of United's game against CSKA Moscow when asked about being charged by the Football Association for labelling referee Alan Wiley unfit.

He said: "Silly question and it gets no answer. I've nothing to say about it. I'm at a press conference for a game tomorrow. I'm here to talk about that. Goodnight."

# Guide to the January

from page 37

Manchester United: Louis van Gaal has come under increasing pressure with many accusing him of making United play boring football.

He eased the pressure on himself with an improved performance in the goalless draw with Chelsea, but his side are now winless in eight games.

Rumours continue to circulate that Jose Mourinho is willing to join United as manager while fresh speculation has suggested that Pep Guardiola is in the running for Van Gaal's job.

That uncertainty in regards to the manager's post hasn't stopped some of the world's best players getting linked with a move to Old Trafford.

James Rodriguez, the Real Madrid star, for a start. Reports suggest the Colombian is unsettled and would consider a move to United.

United continue to be linked with Saints' Sadio Mane, who has not yet shown any interest in moving north, and Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez, the Leicester hotshots, remain on the radar.

United also have supposedly expressed interest in former AC Milan striker Alexandre Pato and join a number of clubs chasing Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

With Luke Shaw, Marcos Rojo and Antonio Valencia injured, United are short in defence and Bruno Martins Indi, the Porto defender, has been linked.

Newcastle: Steve McLaren spent quite a bit of cash on getting Gini Wijnadum from PSV Eindhoven and Aleksandar Mitrovic from Anderlecht in the summer. But, deep in relegation trouble, they might need to spend again.

Wijnadum, the Magpies top-scorer on seven goals, has been relatively successful since his £14.5m transfer while £13m Mitrovic has only netted three times all season.

They are really short up top with Papiss Cisse injured and Manu Riviere, who is considered a flop by many, getting back to fitness.

It means Mitrovic is the only strike option available.

They courted QPR striker Charlie Austin last year, but the suspicion is that Austin would rather stay in the south than move to the north east to a club where he might be relegated from the Premier League in successive seasons.

The Magpies are also looking for a winger with Spurs' Andros Townsend and Bordeaux's Henri Saivet attracting attention from Tyneside.

Norwich City: It looks like the Canaries have already secured the services of Steven Naismith, the Everton winger, and are also after Dinamo Zagreb defender Ivo Pinto.

City have already completed a permanent deal for Matt Jarvis



England's Andros Townsend has been linked with a host of Premier League clubs



Southampton's Sadio Mane, right, has been linked with Manchester United

from West Ham and will have the challenge of luring targets to a club that are among the favourites to go down.

Stoke: The Potters are in a glorious position and won't need to spend urgently this month.

Twelve new players came in last summer, including star man Xherdan Shaqiri and he, along with Bojan Krkic and Marko Arnautovic have been vital to Stoke's progress.

Such is the optimism at Stoke that there is talk of a push for the Champions League spots and many

at the club will likely feel that they can sit back and watch other clubs scramble for players in the often overpriced January market.

Hughes will be more than aware that the vultures may come circling for their best players.

Therefore, their remit will be to ensure that Shaqiri, Bojan nor Arnautovic depart.

The Potters may look to strengthen their striking options and have been linked with Stefan Kiessling, of Bayer Leverkusen and Simone Zaza from Juventus.

Sunderland: The Black Cats have to react fast in the transfer window or they will be relegated.

Sam Allardyce's defensive options are inadequate. Sebastian Coates isn't good enough, while the ageing Wes Brown can't be relied upon.

John O'Shea and Younes Kaboul are both out injured and Coates recently joined them on the sidelines.

On a positive note, they have an extremely experienced Premier League manager in Allardyce and, if they are going to beat the drop, then he is certainly the best man to try and keep them up.

So, with that in mind, Big Sam will go and get some business down pretty quickly this month.

Lorient centre-half Lamine Kone underwent a medical on Wearside this week and the deal is expected to be done quickly.

Sunderland are expected to revisit the French league for Kone's team-mate and right-back Lamine Gassama.



# y transfer window



West Bromwich Albion's Saido Berahino, left. Could Tottenham reignite their interest in the striker this month?

Swansea: The Swans are in trouble. A great start to the season descended into misery with Garry Monk sacked as manager after a poor run of form and Bafetimbi Gomis' goals drying up.

Now they sit precariously above the drop zone and, with a permanent manager yet to be appointed, chairman Huw Jenkins' priority will naturally be to employ a new boss over player signings.

In saying that, if a new man comes in he will instantly look to solve their goal-scoring problems and sign a striker to help Gomis out, who has scored once in 15 games.

Like many clubs, they've been tipped to sign Loic Remy from Chelsea and Charlie Austin from QPR, but filling the vacant manager's position will be their first priority.

Caretaker manager Alan Curtis has said there are funds available to him, but tempting players to the Liberty could prove tricky considering the uncertainty over who will take permanent charge.

England midfielder Jonjo Shelvey and Gomis have both been linked away from south Wales, but both are expected to stay.

It's all about solving the firepower issues at the Liberty.

Tottenham: Spurs have been snooping around West Brom's Saido Berahino and Saints' Victor Wanyama for some time, but it seems unlikely they will get either of them in January.

Ronald Koeman has already said



Everton's Steven Naismith, who is wanted by Norwich City

that nobody will leave St Mary's while dealing with the Baggies could be highly complex after the two clubs had unpleasant dealings over the player during the summer.

Plus, there are more pressing issues for former Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino, who needs a striker with Harry Kane the only senior

forward at White Hart Lane.

Spurs need an attacker that can play up top and out wide, now even more so after Clinton N'jie's recent injury.

Tottenham are interested in signing Atletico Madrid forward Jackson Martinez, but that deal is unlikely to happen.

Fulham's Moussa Dembele, Barcelona's Sandro Ramirez and Marseille's Michy Batshuayi are also on the shopping list.

Spurs also continue to track Axel Witsel, the Zenit St Petersburg midfielder, who recently admitted he's willing to leave the Russian club.

One player to be linked away from White Hart Lane is England winger Andros Townsend, who has been linked with a move to Newcastle, West Brom, Watford, Bournemouth and Sunderland.

Watford: The Hornets have shown all their doubters – of which there were many – that they are far, far more than relegation fodder.

The problems is that because this Watford team have obliterated expectations, currently sitting comfortably in the top-half, their players are very tempting options for clubs with bigger financial clout.

The fear is that 14-goal top-scorer Odion Ighalo could be tempted to leave this month.

There primary focus will be on keeping the Nigerian striker, who has attracted interest from Spanish giants Atletico Madrid, but there are plans to recruit, too.

Watford made 16 summer signings and aren't about to stop their business next month, with manager Quique Sanchez Flores insisting that key players won't leave and new players will come in.

Back up for Ighalo and captain Troy Deeney upfront is a priority, with former Tottenham, Arsenal and Manchester City frontman Emanuel Adebayor a possible acquisition.

Roma's Juan Iturbe is another one on the shopping list while Jose Holebas is set to depart Vicarage Road just months after arriving in the summer.

West Brom: The Baggies could reignite their interest in a couple of summer targets but, for the most part, speculation will surround the future of Saido Berahino and whether Spurs will rekindle their interest.

Chairman Jeremy Peace is traditionally reluctant to do business in January but Pulis might look to bring in Matty Phillips from QPR and Kerim Frei from Besiktas – both of whom were summer targets.

West Ham: The vibe coming from the Boleyn Ground is that there will be little or no activity.

Manager Slaven Bilic, though, will be keen to revitalise his injury-hit squad which suffered a big dip in form before beating Saints 2-1.

Bilic might just wait for the likes of Dimitri Payet, a hugely important player, to return along with striker Diafra Sakho and Enner Valencia.

Everton winger Kevin Mirallas has been tipped for a move, while Andros Townsend is also apparently on the shopping list.

## Bury your head in these conferences

LOUIS Van Gaal's press conference walk-out before Christmas garnered plenty of column inches. But his all-too-brief festive appearance sorely lacked fireworks when compared to some other giants of the genre.

Here, then, are five seminal examples of when sports press conferences attack:

**HEAD IN THE SAND:** Nigel Pearson made the year's most memorable press conference allusion in April when he responded angrily to a reporter who questioned his assertion that media negativity was not helping his relegation-threatened side. "I think you are an ostrich," Pearson told the bemused reporter. "Your head must be in the sand." Pearson left the club two months later.

**SILENT SEAHAWK:** Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch made his intentions clear during a so-called Superbowl 'media opportunity' in January. Lynch told a packed room of reporters "I'm just here so I don't get fined", and proceeded to answer every question thrown at him with a variation on the same sentiment before standing up and leaving the room precisely four minutes and 51 seconds after his 'press conference' began.



Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal

**BATMAN MANIA:** Tyson Fury certainly brought something new to the table when he dressed as Batman – and proceeded to brawl with a stooge dressed as his arch-enemy The Joker – at a press conference to promote his upcoming world heavyweight title fight with Wladimir Klitschko. And who can now say it did not work?

**ANGRY ANNA:** The often inane questions served up at post-match Wimbledon press conferences can often make it a chore for even the most well-intentioned interviewee. But it all got too much for notoriously truculent Anna Kournikova in 2002 when BBC reporter Gary Richardson suggested her numerous off-court interests could be affecting her form. Kournikova stood up and asked for the interview to be re-started, but it was later broadcast in full, leading to protests from the WTA.

**RAFA'S "FACTS":** Never have Sir Alex Ferguson's mind games paid off so deliciously – not even Kevin Keegan's infamous "Love it!" tirade – as when then Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez responded to his needling in 2009 by reading from a pre-prepared list of "facts" at a pre-match press conference. Liverpool, top at the time, went on to lose the title to United.

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# SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

## Barclays Premier League

<b>Arsenal</b> .....1	<b>Newcastle</b> .....0
Koscielny 72	Att 59,257
HT 0-0	Att 32,006
<b>Leicester</b> .....0	<b>AFC Bournemouth</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 32,006
<b>Man Utd</b> .....2	<b>Swansea</b> .....1
Marial 47	Sigurdsson 70
Rooney 77	Att 75,415
HT 0-0	
<b>Norwich</b> .....1	<b>SAINTS</b> .....0
Tettey 76	Att 27,022
HT 0-0	
<b>Sunderland</b> .....3	<b>A. Villa</b> .....1
Van Aanholt 30	Gl 63
Defoe 72,90	Att 41,535
HT 0-0	
<b>Watford</b> .....L	<b>Man City</b> .....L
HT 0-0	
<b>W.B.A.</b> .....2	<b>Stoke</b> .....1
Sessegnon 60	Walters 81
Evans 90	Att 23,218
HT 0-0	
<b>West Ham</b> .....2	<b>Liverpool</b> .....0
Antonio 10	Att 34,977
Carroll 55	
HT 1-0	

HOME	AWAY
Arsenal	W D L F A Pt
Leicester	20 5 4 1 16 13
Man City	19 8 0 2 29 12
Tottenham	19 5 4 1 18 7
Man Utd	20 5 4 1 12 4
West Ham	20 4 4 2 16 12
Crystal P	19 4 2 4 12 9
Liverpool	20 4 3 3 12 11
Watford	19 4 2 4 10 8
Stoke	20 4 1 4 10 9
Everton	19 3 4 2 22 19
W.B.A.	20 4 2 5 14 17
SAINTS	20 4 2 4 17 13
Norwich	20 4 3 3 12 10
Bournemouth	20 2 4 3 10 13
Chelsea	20 4 2 4 15 14
Swansea	20 3 4 3 9 12
Newcastle	20 2 4 4 14 14
Sunderland	20 3 2 5 12 11
A. Villa	20 0 3 6 6 13

## SkyBet Championship

<b>Birmingham</b> .....2	<b>Brentford</b> .....1
Maghoma 55	Holmann 77
Kieftenbeld 89	Att 17,555
HT 0-0	
<b>Bolton</b> .....0	<b>Huddersfield</b> .....2
HT 0-0	Lolley 61
<b>Burnley</b> .....0	<b>Ipswich</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 15,969
<b>Cardiff</b> .....1	<b>Blackburn</b> .....0
Mason 58	Att 16,307
HT 0-0	
<b>Charlton</b> .....1	<b>Nottm For</b> .....1
Makennik Christoffersen 70	Osborn 44
HT 0-1	Att 14,385
<b>Fulham</b> .....0	<b>Sheff Wed</b> .....0
HT 0-1	Wallace 29
<b>Leeds Utd</b> .....1	<b>M K Dons</b> .....1
Kay 87 og	Hall 30
HT 0-0	Att 24,356
<b>Middlesbro</b> .....2	<b>Derby City</b> .....0
Adomah 83	
Friend 85	Att 32,870
HT 0-0	
<b>Preston</b> .....2	<b>Rotherham</b> .....1
Doyle 64	Andreou 35
Clarke-Harris 90 og	Att 12,027
HT 0-1	
<b>Reading</b> .....1	<b>Bristol C</b> .....0
Blackman 90	Att 19,677
HT 0-0	

HOME	AWAY
Middlesbro	P W D L F A Pt
Derby City	25 7 4 2 1 20 2
Hull	25 9 2 2 1 22 6
Brighton	25 8 2 3 15 12
Burnley	25 8 3 2 25 11
Ipswich	25 4 5 3 15 13
Sheff Wed	25 7 4 1 22 10
Birmingham	25 6 2 5 13 14
Cardiff	25 7 5 1 19 11
Brentford	25 6 2 4 17 16
Wolves	25 3 5 4 13 14
Reading	25 6 4 3 16 9
Leeds Utd	25 3 5 5 11 15
Nottm For	25 5 4 3 16 11
Preston	25 4 6 3 11 10
Q.P.R.	25 4 7 2 21 16
Blackburn	24 3 6 2 11 7
Huddersfield	25 4 3 5 16 15
Fulham	25 4 4 5 23 22
M K Dons	25 5 1 6 12 14
Rotherham	25 4 2 6 19 20
Bristol C	25 2 5 5 13 20
Charlton	25 3 5 5 14 21
Bolton	25 2 8 3 12 14

## SkyBet League One

<b>Barnsley</b> .....2	<b>Millwall</b> .....1
Winnall 12	Morison 61
Hammill 67	
HT 1-0	
<b>Burton Albion</b> .....1	<b>Blackpool</b> .....0
Duffy 63	Att 4,339
HT 0-0	
<b>Chesterfield</b> .....7	<b>Shrewsbury</b> .....0
O'Shea 28,40 pen	Whitbread 66
Novak 45,81 pen,89	
Simons 73,87	
HT 0-0	
<b>Crewe</b> .....0	<b>Coventry</b> .....5
HT 0-0	Armstrong 11,30 pen,45
	Murphy 27,85
	Att 5,946

<b>Fleetwood Town</b> .....2	<b>Bury</b> .....0
Hunter 49	Att 3,301
Grant 76	
HT 0-0	
<b>Gillingham</b> .....3	<b>Bradford</b> .....0
Dack 4	
Donnelly 11	
HT 2-0	
<b>Oldham</b> .....1	<b>Colchester</b> .....1
Murphy 5	Porter 81
HT 1-0	Att 3,535
<b>Port Vale</b> .....P	<b>Swindon</b> .....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>Scunthorpe</b> .....1	<b>Wigan</b> .....1
Williams 20	Jacobs 34
HT 1-1	Att 4,102
<b>Sheff Utd</b> .....2	<b>Peterboro</b> .....3
Sharp 32 pen	Washington 18
Baldwin 84 og	Oztuner 48
HT 1-1	Att 22,302
<b>Southend</b> .....0	<b>Doncaster</b> .....3
HT 1-1	Williams 44
	Taylor-Sinclair 54
	Tyson 58 pen
	Att 7,134
<b>Walsall</b> .....0	<b>Rochdale</b> .....3
HT 0-1	Henderson 3
	Andrew 58,77
	Att 4,857

HOME	AWAY
Burton Alb	P W D L F A Pt
Gillingham	25 10 2 1 21 9
Walsall	24 7 3 3 19 13
Coventry	25 8 4 0 26 13
Wigan	24 6 3 2 15 5
Peterboro	25 6 3 3 26 19
Southend	24 6 2 5 14 17
Sheff Utd	24 7 1 5 27 21
Rochdale	24 6 2 2 17 12
Millwall	24 5 1 6 14 17
Doncaster	25 5 4 3 16 11
Port Vale	23 4 4 2 11 9
Bury	24 5 4 2 18 15
Scunthorpe	25 5 3 5 10 12
Swindon	24 4 2 6 18 20
Barnsley	24 5 2 6 17 16
Chesterfield	25 3 3 7 22 24
Fleetwood T	25 5 3 4 22 12
Shrewsbury	24 3 2 7 15 17
Blackpool	24 5 2 4 11 12
Oldham	23 1 4 7 13 25
Colchester	25 3 4 5 19 22
Crewe	24 2 3 8 12 27

## SkyBet League Two

HOME	AWAY
Plymouth	P W D L F A Pt
Northmptn	24 9 3 1 32 11
Oxford Utd	25 6 5 1 17 8
POMPEY	25 5 7 1 24 7
Carlisle	25 6 1 6 17 14
Wycombe	24 5 4 4 19 17
Acc Stanley	22 4 3 2 18 15
Leyton O	25 6 4 2 22 13
Carlisle	23 6 3 3 24 19
Wimbleton	25 4 3 5 14 16
Cambridge	25 5 2 6 19 23
Mansfield	24 3 6 4 18 15
Crewe	25 6 2 4 15 15
Luton	25 3 3 6 17 19
Exeter	24 4 5 4 19 18
Notts City	24 7 2 4 26 22
Dagenham	25 7 2 2 21 13
Stevenage	25 4 4 5 17 23
Newport Co	24 1 5 6 14 21
Hartlepool	21 3 6 2 12 17
Dagenham	25 0 4 8 8 22
Yeovil	25 2 5 6 16 21
York	24 2 3 6 15 23

<b>Bristol R</b> .....2	<b>Luton</b> .....0
Gayton 60,72	Att 9,131
HT 0-0	
<b>Cambridge</b> .....1	<b>AFC Wimbledon</b> .....4
Berry 26	Robinson 10
	Taylor 64
	Meades 76
	Azooz 86
	McAllister 77
	Dzierzawski 82
HT 1-1	Att 5,754
<b>Carlisle</b> .....0	<b>Plymouth</b> .....2
HT 0-1	Brunt 26
	Wyllie 90
	Att 4,415
<b>Exeter</b> .....1	<b>Dagenham</b> .....2
Nichols 43	Labadie 11
HT 1-1	Chambers 74
<b>Mansfield</b> .....2	<b>Acc Stanley</b> .....3
Green 27	Mingola 4
Clements 88	Kee 72
HT 1-1	Gornell 85
<b>Newport County</b> .....P	<b>Hartlepool</b> .....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>Northmptn</b> .....3	<b>Barnet</b> .....0
Hoskins 5	Att 5,153
Holmes 52	Sercombe 45 pen
Richards 60	MacDonald 79
HT 1-0	O'Dowda 90
<b>Notts City</b> .....2	<b>Oxford Utd</b> .....0
Stead 61	Rode 90
Thompson 76	Att 5,877
HT 0-1	
<b>POMPEY</b> .....0	<b>Crawley</b> .....0
Clarke 13	Att 16,606
McNulty 26	Simpson 60 pen,90
Roberts 83	Att 4,022
HT 2-0	
<b>Stevenage</b> .....2	<b>Leyton O</b> .....2
Gnandouillet 75,79	Att 4,022
HT 0-0	
<b>Wycombe</b> .....0	<b>Morecambe</b> .....5
HT 0-0	Devitt 84 pen
	Att 3,555

<b>Yeovil</b> .....1	<b>York</b> .....0
Dolan 40 pen	Att 8,866
HT 1-0	

## Ladbrokes Scottish Prem

<b>Celtic</b> .....1	<b>Partick</b> .....0
Griffiths 90	
HT 0-0	
<b>Dundee</b> .....2	<b>Dundee Utd</b> .....1
Hemmings 41	Spittal 15
Ross 62	Att 11,025
HT 1-1	
<b>Inverness CT</b> .....2	<b>Ross Cnty</b> .....0
Storey 26	
Tansley 45	Att 5,388
HT 2-0	
<b>Kilmarnock</b> .....2	<b>Hearts</b> .....2
Balaton 43	Reilly 45
Magennis 80	Patersen 56
HT 1-1	Att 5,388
<b>Motherwell</b> .....3	<b>Hamilton</b> .....3
McDonald 9,46	Tagliapietra 25
Moult 57	MacKinnon 28
HT 1-2	Crawford 90 pen
	Att 5,477

HOME	AWAY
Celtic	P W D L F A Pt
Aberdeen	21 7 3 1 17 10
Hearts	21 6 3 1 21 12
St Johnstn	20 4 4 2 14 12
Ross Cnty	22 7 0 4 23 16
Inverness CT	4 3 4 12 12
Dundee	21 4 3 3 17 14
Motherwell	20 4 3 4 16 16
Partick	20 3 3 4 9 13
Hamilton	21 3 3 5 17 18
Kilmarnock	22 2 3 6 12 26
Dundee Utd	21 1 2 7 8 15

## Ladbrokes Scottish Ch'ship

<b>Alloa</b> .....L	<b>Falkirk</b> .....L
HT L-L	
<b>Dumbarton</b> .....0	<b>Rangers</b> .....6
HT 0-1	Miller 42,58,64
	Waghorn 71
	Haliday 81
	Tavernier 88
	Att 1,894
<b>Hibernian</b> .....1	<b>Raith</b> .....0
Cummings 50	Att 10,994
HT 0-0	
<b>Livingston</b> .....0	<b>Queen Sth</b> .....2
HT 0-0	Lyle 65
	Russell 77
	Att 958
<b>Morton</b> .....0	<b>St Mirren</b> .....1
HT 0-1	Shankland 39
	Att 4,736

HOME	AWAY
Rangers	P W D L F A Pt
Hibernian	19 8 2 0 18 6
Falkirk	19 8 1 1 17 3
Raith	18 5 1 2 13 6
Queen Sth	19 3 3 4 12 20
Morton	19 3 3 3 6 8
St Mirren	19 0 3 6 9 19
Dumbarton	20 3 1 6 10 24
Livingston	20 1 2 7 8 14
Alloa	18 0 1 8 3 18

## Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 1

<b>Albion R</b> .....1	<b>Airdrieonians</b> .....2
Gemmell 26	Reid 67 og
HT 1-0	Lister 87
<b>Brechin</b> .....P	<b>Forfar</b> .....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>Dunfermline</b> .....2	<b>Cowdenbth</b> .....1
Moffat 18,65 pen	Spence 37
HT 1-1	Att 5,641
<b>Peterhead</b> .....4	<b>Stenhausmuir</b> .....1
Redman 5	Cook 33
Albion R	18 5 2 2 15 9
Airdrieonians	20 3 1 6 10 14
Stenhausmuir	20 4 2 4 16 22
Cowdenbth	19 5 3 1 18 9
Stranraer	19 2 1 7 5 18
Forfar	19 2 1 7 15 18
Brechin	19 2 2 5 9 15

## Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 2

<b>Berwick</b> .....P	<b>Annan Athletic</b> .....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>Clyde</b> .....0	<b>Queen Park</b> .....1
HT 0-1	Mitchell 23
<b>East Fife</b> .....0	<b>Elgin</b> .....2
HT 0-0	Reilly 55
	MacLeod 87
<b>E Stirling</b> .....3	<b>Stirling A</b> .....2
McKinlay 2,68	Att 523
Orr 20	
<b>Montrose</b> .....0	<b>Arbroath</b> .....2
HT 0-1	Whitfield 64
	Att 1,387

HOME	AWAY
Elgin	P W D L F A Pt
Queen Park	19 4 1 4 11 8
Annan Ath	18 5 3 1 18 11
Clyde	18 5 1 4 17 13
Stirling A	19 4 1 4 11 11
East Fife	19 4 2 4 15 12
Arbroath	18 3 1 4 10 11
Berwick	18 3 2 4 11 17
Montrose	19 5 1 4 17 18
E Stirling	17 6 0 3 16 16

## Vanarama National League

<b>Braintree Town</b> .....P	<b>Boreham W</b> .....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>Cheltenham</b> .....P	<b>Kidderminster</b> .....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>Chester FC</b> .....1	<b>Altrincham</b> .....1
Hannah 20	Rankine 60
HT 1-0	Att 2,155
<b>Dover</b> .....A	<b>Welling U</b> .....A
HT 0-0	Att 1,026
Abandoned - after 70 minutes due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>EASTLEIGH</b> .....P	<b>Bromley</b> .....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.	
<b>FC Halifax</b> .....2	<b>Lincoln City</b> .....2
Tulton 27	Stanley 16
James 69	Att 1,932
HT 1-1	
<b>Gateshead</b> .....1	<b>Barrow</b> .....1
Bowman 40 pen	J Williams 84
HT 1-0	Att 892
<b>Grimsby</b> .....1	<b>Guiseley</b> .....1
Amund 72	Norburn 40
HT 0-1	Att 5,093
<b>Southport</b> .....3	<b>Wrexham</b> .....2
Almond 41,85 pen	York 18
Foster 51	Gray 71
HT 1-1	Att 2,148
<b>Tranmere</b> .....0	<b>Macclesfield</b> .....0
HT 0-1	Sampson 31
<b>Woking</b> .....2	<b>Aldershot</b> .....1
Quigley 25	Browne 74
Goddard 45	Att 3,708
HT 2-0	

HOME	AWAY
Cheltenham	P W D L F A Pt
Forest Gm	27 12 1 2 31 11
Grimsby	26 9 4 2 33 13
EASTLEIGH	26 7 2 4 19 18
Macclesfield	29 7